

# 1: The Kingdom of God

## What Sort of Kingdom is it?

The primary revelation of Gods character that Jesus brought was the Father; the primary revelation of Gods purpose was the Kingdom!

The phrase kingdom of God occurs 66 times, the kingdom of heaven 32 times and the phrase the kingdom 15 times in the NIV. Jesus first public ministry utterance was “*the kingdom of heaven is at hand*” Mk1:15. The kingdom is the major theme in the gospels? What did Jesus hearers understand by it?

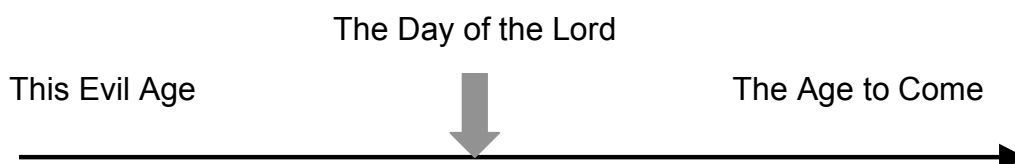
### The Jewish expectation of the Kingdom of God:

What did Jesus Jewish hearers expect when they heard him say “the time has come the Kingdom of God is at hand”? (They knew he was following on from John the Baptist Mt 3:2)

The Jews had a political and military concept of the kingdom of God based on what they expected the Messiah to do for them. They saw it as an golden age that the messiah would inaugurate, in which, all gentiles would be out of Jerusalem, the streets would run with Roman blood and Israel would be ruled by the messiah (probably a physical descendant of David) in a time called “*the age to come*” This was how they interpreted the prophetic statements about the “Day of the Lord”

The Messiah would then establish the peaceful reign and rule of God on earth; the “*malkuth*” which would bring an end to “*this evil age*” and usher in an era of “*shalom*” where the lion would lie down with the lamb etc

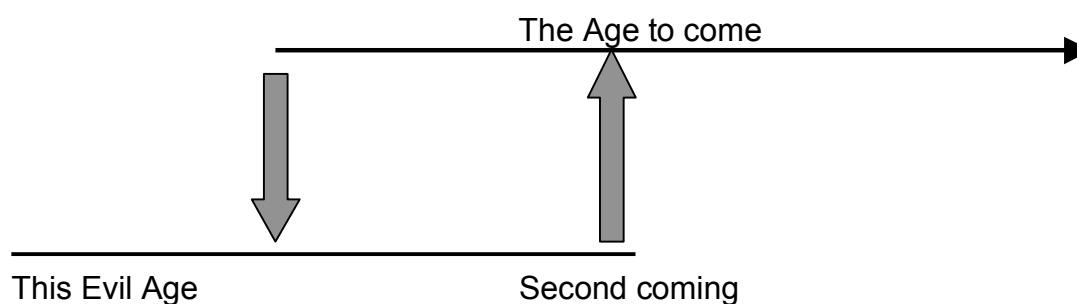
### Jewish eschatological expectations:



Zealots like Judas and Simon (Jesus disciples) and even to some extent John the Baptist were thinking of the coming Kingdom in these terms. So you can imagine John’s confusion when he ends up in Herod’s jail and Jesus does not lead a revolution to set him free. This prompted him to send messengers to Jesus in Mt 11:2 f. Jesus answer to John (Mt11:4-5) shows that he has chosen to rewrite the rule about messiah-ship and the kingdom. He tells John to see the physical healings as signs of the kingdom has arrived but it is in a different form to that which John had been expecting

“..the Jews failed to realize that Gods vengeance would not be aimed so much at the enemies of Israel as it would as it would towards the enemies of man, sin the devil, his works and the self righteous attitude fostered by religion..” Bill Johnson.

## Jesus' Inaugurated Eschatology:



**Mk 1:14-15** Jesus says his gospel is good news of the kingdom of God drawing close to his hearers. Jesus is not obliterating this evil age instead he aims to redeem it or transform it! This evil age will continue but from then on, it runs parallel to the power of the age to come. From then until now we live in this evil age but also in an overlap place where the powers of the age to come can break in to this evil age and cause it to be changed. There is an in-breaking of the future age, on a daily basis in to the present age. This **inaugurated eschatology** says **"now and not yet"**. Now & not yet is not a limiting statement; Father is always willing to draw more of the "then in to the "now" in response to desperate believing! (For instance; Mary at the wedding in Capernaum drew the future into the present by faith.) The Kingdom has come and is still coming and one day will come with full expression – when Jesus returns! (**Rev 11:15**) in the mean time this Kingdom is to expand to encompass and influence every nation and aspect of society. When Jesus left His home in heaven He brought with Him seeds of heaven which He then planted in a few followers to see what would happen. He was looking for a propagation of the DNA of heaven a Kingdom effect. Just as vegetation transforms dessert so "the planting of the Lord" was meant to be transformational

God breaks into our present reality via his Church to establish a rule and reign of God in the midst of this evil age, this is what we mean by *"your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"*! With the coming of Jesus, the powers of the age to come began to break into this world. We live in the overlap time, where we see the Kingdom of God and Kingdom of darkness, existing side by side, on the earth. We see the kingdom of God advancing, (Parable of the yeast and the tree.) incrementally to take over, until it reaches such a state that, "the knowledge of the Glory of the Lord covers the earth as the waters cover the sea". Then Jesus can return to an earth and a bride made fit for Him, then the reign of God will be made complete! We live life in the overlap between the two worlds. We are the only beings that can live in both dimensions simultaneously. Our actions allow heaven to come and touch the earth – like tram cars connecting to the power source.

The Kingdom simply means the **"Kings domain"** the place where the King rules and reigns. You can't get a passport for it or find it on a map but you can be a citizen of it! As people are saved they change Kingdoms. This continual

expansion of the Kingdom leads to “**power encounter**” clashes between the two systems. When ever the Kingdom of God is rightly manifested souls are released from the kingdom of darkness and God’s will gets done upon the earth. (Col1:12-14) These encounters lead to obvious manifestations of the Kingdom like healing and deliverance (1 Cor 4:20)

The gospel of the Kingdom results in Jesus style ethics but also Jesus style actions. (Act 8:12, Act 19:8 & 28:23)

Jesus made it quite clear that the Kingdom was spiritual (spiritual does not mean unreal!) in nature, not a viable geopolitical kingdom (Jn 18:36). Yet it was real and active upon the earth now not just in the future. It’s a big mistake to project all the good stuff of the Kingdom off into some “millennial future”- heaven can come to earth now! (Lk 17:20-21 & Lk 11:20) The Church is not the Kingdom (it’s an agent of the kingdom) nor is heaven the kingdom – the kingdom comes when heaven invades earth. Where ever Jesus is at work signs of the Kingdom will follow (Mt 4:23-25 & 8:14-17)

### What does “Your Kingdom come” look like?

What does “on earth as it is in heaven look like? Prayer for the Kingdom of God to come means that we are asking for an increase in the rule and reign of God on the earth and a gradual eroding and reversal of the effects of the fall.

Complete reversal of the fall was previewed in the ministry of Jesus (like highlights in a film trailer) and was copied by the first century church through out the book of Acts.

**Signs of the age to come:** When we pray “May your kingdom come” the balance in the war moves to the right hand column:

Symptom of evil	Kingdom alternative	In Jesus’ ministry	In Early church
1. Death	• Resuscitation	Lk 7:14	Act 9:40-42
2. Demonization	• Deliverance	Lk 11:14	Act 16:18
3. Disease	• Healing	Lk 9:11	Act 3:6
4. Imprisonment	• Freedom	Lk 4:28-30	Act 12:11
5. Blindness	• Sight	Jn 9:1-7	Act 9:17-18
6. Occult	• Joy	N/A	Act 13:8-12
7. Disaster	• Rescue	Mt 8:24-27	Act 27:34
8. Deception	• Truth	Jn 8:32	Act 9:4
9. Division	• Unity	Jn 17:23	Act 2:44
10. Domination	• Salvation	Jn 8:36	Act 8:7-8
11. Darkness	• Light	Mt 4:16	Act 26:18

The power of the Kingdom of God was not just for Jesus but was transferable to his follower. Having given them clear worked examples he commissioned his disciples to “go and do likewise”

Lk 9:1-6 Mt 10:1-10

Jesus clearly expected those who had faith in Him to continue his ministry after him. Jn 14:12.

However this wide ranging commission comes with strict rules of engagement. Jesus said he could only do what he saw his Father doing. We are ambassadors not masters of the situation. The power of the Kingdom comes within limits; it is under the King of the Kingdom. (Compare a 4x4 vehicle with a good train contrast of freedom and power) we are called to follow the command to pray for the sick, the results are up to God (Omar Cabrera ) some time we are more pastoral than God in our worry about disappointments! Although the power of the Kingdom is always present in our space and time it is not always released in our situation. The kingdom did not break John or James out of prison but this did not stop the church praying, until Peter saw power manifested in his release. Kingdom power did not stop Paul being arrested and beaten in Philippi yet a few hours later it was manifested in an earthquake!

## 2: Kingdom Authority

### What's the basis of kingdom authority?

Jesus was sent from heaven to invade earth and manifest the presence of heaven. Now as the Father sent Jesus; so Jesus sends us, as citizens of the kingdom of heaven to invade the kingdom of darkness. – [Jn 20:21](#). They understood that as they had received freely all the good things of the kingdom, manifesting around Jesus, so they now needed to give away what they had received [Mt10:8](#). They knew that the kingdom authority resident in Jesus was being given to them for the task of kingdom expansion – [Mt28:18-19](#). Note they were to teach the disciples to do all that He had taught them to do namely healing & deliverance and good news!

### Where did Jesus authority come from?

People were amazed since Jesus brought this new teaching of the kingdom with authority [Mk 1:21 & 27](#) As always it was not because he was the Son of God (He had divested himself of all his divine power [Phil 2:6-7](#)) but because he was obedient to the Fathers leading [Jn 5;19](#). (Centurions submission to the authority)

[Acts2:22](#). He manifested the kingdom and did miracles not as Son of God but as a Spirit filled man. (Jesus is the most normal Christian in the Bible!) He did what God had always wanted mankind to do! Jesus was the second Adam!

### The Garden Mandate

God made and *placed* Adam in the garden (He'd been created elsewhere?). This garden (*Garden means lit "hedged in protected place"*) was an expression of God's creation and rule and was thus perfect. The rest of the world outside the garden was a different story; it had long since fallen under the control of the fallen angel Satan, it was a place of imperfection. (Where did the serpent come from if nothing else was fallen at this time?)

God gave Adam a commission to rule, not only in the garden but in the wider world, to bring it all under Gods rule. Adam was to function as Gods regent, ruling with delegated authority on the earth - [Gen1: 26 & 28](#). They had the twin job of *guarding* and *tending* the garden (What did they need to guard

against?) Thus God aimed to destroy the emerging kingdom of darkness ruled by the fallen angels, through two people who chose to freely obey God out of love, who would bring the entire planet back to God. "Man was to cause the darkness to fall instead he fell to the darkness"

### **The Keys of the Kingdom**

Metaphorically speaking Adam had the keys of authority to rule and reign on the earth (**Ps115:16**). Keys have power to open and shut if you have them you have control of all that happens (**Isa 22:22 & Rev 3:7**) Satan had no empowering dominion in the garden. He could not crash into Eden and take over unless Adam yielded up his authority to him. Once Adam gave the keys over to Satan he could then use them to impose his will on all the earth and all Adams descendants (**1Cor 15:22**) to kill steal and destroy with no human (Dominion empowers!) having the right to resist him. Adam obeyed Satan and became his slave (**Rm 6:16**)

**God had a plan!** - **Gen 3:15**. Jesus came not only to pay the penalty of Adams sin but to regain that which Adam had given away; namely the mandate to rule under God - **Lk 19:10**. Satan tried to tempt Jesus with all the authority he had been given **Lk 4:6-7**. Jesus refused Satan's short cut offer. He was here to get the keys back Gods way – by obedience and love! Jesus was obedient to death on the cross in this he disarmed Satan (**1Jn 3:8 & Jn 19:30**) recovered the keys and rose again taking the authority with him into heaven there he presented it to the Father who commanded that it be given back to those who need it his children on earth. (**Mat 28:18**)

- We are given the keys of the kingdom to open things up and shut things down as Gods representatives on earth! **Mt 16:19**
- We have authority to trample over the powers of hell! **Lk 10:19**

If Jesus has all authority then Satan has no legitimate authority. We empower Satan when we come into agreement with his opinion of a situation.

So we have "all authority" but authority alone is not enough! An African prime minister may have the legal right and authority to declare war on the USA but he does not possess the power to do so effectively!

- Authority = *exousias*; the right to exercise power
- Power = *dunamis*; the ability to change situations

Authority and power have to be joined this was achieved on the day of Pentecost

### **The Power of the Kingdom: The Holy Spirit**

**1Cor 4:10** the kingdom is not about *logos* but *dunamis*

**Acts 1:7** "you will receive *dunamis* when the Spirit comes upon you..." This *dunamis* comes in the form of a person the Holy Spirit of Jesus. (It's part of our fallen humanity to want to get power and manipulate power. That's why God sends his power in a person we have to love welcome and can easily grieve. The power of the Kingdom is not a force but a person - in receiving the person we receive the power!)

**Mat 12:28** “But If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God then surely the Kingdom of God has come upon you.” Jesus did not give us the Holy Spirit so we could have a glory Hallelujah bubble bath and become happy clappy sunbeams for Jesus!

**Individual salvation was not The Father final goal. It is an intermediate step to a greater target!** We as redeemed people can get to the final target – which was to see a race of people raised up; the sons of the Kingdom, who could be filled with the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus was – mini anointed ones who could do the works of the Kingdom.

Jesus was the one who would give the Spirit without measure. Baptism in the Spirit is God's ultimate gift to us – greater than the cross and the resurrection and the ascension. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the end point for all these things. All of these great works were to prepare the way to allow the Father to release the Holy Spirit into the world; not personalized in Jesus not restricted to Israel but universalized for all peoples at all times. (**Joel 2: 28-29 Jn 3:34**)

### **The Kingdom only moves forward in power of the Spirit. Mt 12:28**

By the Spirit Kingdom is;

- Empowered
- Enlarged
- Enforced.

The Holy Spirit loves to enforce the Lordship of Jesus over demonically inspired circumstances. The more we welcome Him the more we will see, His Kingdom domain, established in our situations. The greater the manifestations of His presence that we allow the quicker His victories become apparent. It is the presence of the Spirit that links us to the supernatural realms. Even after the three year master class with Jesus the disciples still had to wait, until they were endued with power from on high.

**“He is in me for my sake but upon me for yours” Bill Johnson**  
**Lk 24:49 Acts 1:5 1:8 Eps 3:16 Eps 1:19 Rm 15:13 1 Cor 2:4**

### **Being full of the Spirit for the Kingdom sake**

The Holy Spirit has been given “without measure” we must let him manifest in our lives then we change situations. We are a river not a lake, rivers flow and change geography:

- A bottle is not full until it overflows. Keep on seeking knocking seeking until there is out flow – Baptism in the Spirit is an ongoing experience.
- Ask for a testimony of the Spirit, keep it up to date and speak it out often (six week shelf life!)
- Create the atmosphere of invitation – worship
- Expand your spirit's capacity & sensitivity by speaking in tongues a lot
- Seek out places of blessing (wells and watering holes) go there often – “come all you who are thirsty”
- Actively invite Holy Spirit to manifest in your life anyway He wants (no boundaries)
- Holy Spirit is within you call him forth to fill all parts of you then to move beyond you to others (from inner space to peoples space)
- Develop a hunger for the supernatural this will ensure you peruse the presence of the Spirit

## **3: Kingdom Parables**

### Introduction:

The kingdom of God is a mystery and we don't like mysteries. Jesus used parables to put off casual seekers who wanted it all simple and on a plate now! Only those who were willing to get up close and personal with Jesus got the full explanation of the kingdom.

Parables are like keys that open locked doors into the kingdom world. In a detective story we solve mysteries by collecting clues. Parables are clues for those who are seeking. If we put all the clues together we get a picture of the kingdom. One parable on its own is not enough they need to be put together to give the full picture.

### There are two sorts of Kingdom parables:

1. Here and now parables – illustrative of the “now”, immanent kingdom life we can experience.
2. Then and there parables - illustrative of the “then”, future, (eschatological) kingdom events.

The first set are about how the Kingdom comes into our present everyday life the other is about how the Kingdom will come in all its fullness at the end and what we need to be watching out for as that time approaches. We must not confuse the two.

[The eschatological kingdom references = second coming. Acts 1:6. Kingdom of God is a template for understanding the return of Christ]

Now immediate	transitioning	Then future judgment
• Seed Mk 4:26		• Net Mt 13:47
• Mustard Seed Mt 13:37		• Weeds Mt 13:24
• Yeast Lk 13:20		• Talents Lk 19:11
• Treasure Mt 13:44		• Banquet Lk 14:13
• Pearl Mt 13:45		• Virgins Mt 25:10

### The now parables:

#### Parable of the seed Mk 4:26:

- Seed has all that is needed within it to succeed (The Kingdom comes fully equipped) DNA/food.
- Farmer needs to introduce the seed into the right environment – seeds do not grow well in packets
- Message needs to be brought out of heaven into the earth
- Farmer does not cause the growth. He stewards it. We need to get in on what God is doing – co working
- Seed time inevitably leads to harvest – we will reap what we sow

### **Parable of the mustard seed** Mk 4:30 Mt 13:31 Lk 13:18

- Conspiracy of the insignificant – not very viable yet significant. Do not despise the day of small beginnings.
- Grows and causes change –vegetation causes landscape to change. This shows the transformational nature of the Kingdom
- Becomes a place of shelter and safety - a great tree like Daniels vision of the Kingdom of God. Huge kingdom from small beginnings the nations finding security in it.

### **Parable of the Yeast** Mt 13:33 Lk 13:20

- Invisible to the eye but has potent effects – the conspiracy of the insignificant.
- Vast effect for small amount (40 litres of flour results in enough bread to feed 100 people!) “One can put 10 to flight 2 can put a thousand to flight”
- Involved intimately with the flour, needs to be mixed in to have its effect on the flour – Kingdom motto is “get stuck in” not “come ye apart”
- Kingdom involved in majority life

### **Parable of the Treasure** Mt 13:44

(Poor man, day labourer comes across hidden treasure unexpectedly - Common soap plot!)

- Good news to the poor - joy
- Changes the condition of his life – Kingdom meant to transform the way of life and provision. There is no poverty in Heaven!
- Breaks in unexpectedly, was not seeking out the Kingdom yet it found him
- Gave up everything to possess what he had found. “he’s no fool who give what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose” – it’s a costly demanding Kingdom it comes free but costs everything!

### **Parable of the Pearl** Mt 13:45

- Rich man actually seeking to add to his wealth, single minded pursuit of pearls.
- To those that have more will be given. He knew what he was looking for, so when he found it, he knew it was worth holding on to – there is a cumulative effect of revelation about the Kingdom the more you have the more you get!
- Seeking first the Kingdom – not by chance but by design. Seeking an encounter with God.
- Superlative value of the Kingdom – he gave up all his lesser pearls to gain this one perfect pear
- Investment – He put all he had into gaining the Kingdom. Since he had much then he had to invest much in the Kingdom

## **The Then Parables:**

### **Parable of the Net** Mt 13:47

- The net has invaded the fishes environment, it’s deployed in the world

- Kingdom is expansive and invasive (not just religious/church) wide spread involvement in every sphere of life.
- Many touched by it and caught up in it, affected by its activity and presence.
- Not all are truly citizens of the kingdom – adherents’ hangers on enjoying the sensation but not the vocation. The healed but not saved, the delivered but not saved the feed and cared for who do not turn to Jesus. They are blessed but not eternally so.
- Final day will separate out the good from the bad

#### **Parable of the Weeds** Mt 13:24

- Good seed is the people of the kingdom sown into the world by Jesus
- Weeds – Darnel, poisonous but looks like wheat until close to the harvest, roots entangled with the wheat makes it very hard to weed out.
- Devil seeks to infiltrate the Kingdom – mixed church until the end of the age.
- Two kingdoms grow up side by side few can tell them apart, religious seeds look good but do not produce fruit of Kingdom deeds.
- God can cope with this ambiguity for the sake of the good seed, no such thing as a “pure church” this side of second coming!
- But he has appointed a day of separation and judgment.

#### **Parable of the Talents** Lk 19:11 Mt 25:14

- Test of delayed fulfilment
- Delay is an opportunity for fruitful kingdom labour
- Be busy about the King's business using your anointings and gifts to the full so the King has maximum reward from your life.
- Will the returning Jesus find “faith on the earth” or fear; that has caused us to draw back and close down the Kingdom into personal piety and religious activity?
- Kingdom activity is lived now, but in the light of the expectation of the return of the King. We are to lay up treasure in heaven in preparation for that day.

#### **Parable of the Virgins** Mt 25:1

- Sudden unexpected acceleration of spiritual history. (Top of the roller coaster!)
- Be ready for transfer from normality to super spiritual!
- Only awake and aware citizens’ of heaven will not be caught out.

## **4: Kingdom Seeking**

“It’s abnormal for a Christian not to have an appetite for the impossible. It has been written into our DNA to hunger for the impossible around us to bow at the name of Jesus” Bill Johnson.

### **We must prioritize the Kingdom:**

**Mt 6:33** Primary objective is to seek the Kingdom of God then secondary things take care of themselves. “Seek” = to plan and plot, give thought to priorities. “First” = *proton*; firstly, in time, place, order and importance. Seeking first the Kingdom of God, means seeking heavens realities, on the earth, rather than seeking immortality for ourselves or others. Seeking the Kingdom first means that the Kingdom is our first point of contact our first port of call in a situation, it means agreement with what Heaven is saying is paramount. We seek to agree with heaven and actively break agreement with secular thought or with demonic lies. The goal of all prayer and ministry is that the kingship of Jesus would be seen in all circumstance of life. His rule is meant to collide with and conquer all the demonically inspired circumstances of this evil age and replace them with manifestation of heaven on the earth. Is there sickness bondage or poverty in heaven? As we see the provision of heaven released we find that the kingdom of God comes fully equipped.

### **We must Hunger for the Kingdom:**

Hunger gives motivation; the spiritually fat are often complacent! (**Prov 16:26**) If we are hungry we become desperate enough to ask God to feed us. “Give us today our daily bread” – what was Jesus daily bread? **Jn 4:34** His food was to do the will of the Father. So we are asking daily for the will of the Father to happen around us. To do Gods will is our daily bread! What was the will of God for Jesus?

- To do the works of the Father **Jn 10:37-38**  
Destroy the works of the devil **1Jn 3:8**

Jesus was into His Father’s business – the son with whom I am well pleased. All Jesus actions are extravagant earthly expressions of the Fathers Heart for people

### **We must live in the righteousness of the Kingdom:**

“Seek first the Kingdom and his righteousness”. Not only is it a kingdom of mercy and justice but it also a kingdom of rightness. Compromise with the opposite Kingdom causes loss and ineffectiveness in the positive kingdom **1Cor 6:9 Rm 14:17** Kingdom manifestation is always possible but not automatic!

### **We must live as Children of the Kingdom:**

**Mt 18:3** Child like simplicity, children manage to believe, because no one has taught them to doubt! Children know their Fathers are good and would not ask them to do anything dangerous. Children do not mind doing things if the Father is with them – Jesus was a dependent child, as an adult! **Jn 5:19 Jn 5:30 Jn8:29**.

John Wimber said faith is spelt R.I.S.K we have to step out of the boat but we step out in obedience to the voice of God **RM 10:17**.

## **We must forcefully pursue the Kingdom:**

### **Mt 11:11-12**

John equalled Elijah and the smallest in the Kingdom is greater than he! The Kingdom is advancing but it takes a certain sort of believer to advance it. One who thinks he is greater than John and is prepared to do something about it.

Verse 12 could be best translated **“the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully laid hold of, by forceful people pushing their way in”**

People who see miracles are the one who forcefully take hold (energetic forcers) of what God says and try and push in to it (To crowd oneself into a space - Like people at the Sales) They energetically try to catch it!

### **Such people are:**

- Active not passive
- Not fatalistic (**no what will be will be**)
- Believe that to not push in, is to miss out
- Grabbing hold of heaven and bringing it into the situation right before their eye
- Believe the Kingdom is for now not just for later
- Energetically pursuing heavens approval above human approbation.

### **Conclusions:**

Jesus sent his disciples out with the command to pray for the sick preach the gospel and deliver the demonized. The he taught his first disciple to teach us ALL he had commanded them that includes miracles etc. We can't pick and mix the commands of Jesus.

Acts of mercy can be duplicated by atheists and Muslims. Words of witness can be empty of any true power but power signs and wonders done in the name of Jesus carry a conviction and sense of the authentic that none can match. However they can only be done in His name in His time and in His power – when He is King the Kingdom comes! The enemy kingdom will flow into every space we do not fill with Kingdom of God stuff

We often pray instead of being obedient, God wants us to obey not petition all the time. Don't ask the boss to do what he's tasked you to do. We can be the answer in a situation (how many fish do you have?) by proclaiming God's will. He is trying to train us to enforce his kingdom purposes by decree! He wants us to speak to situations in His name! We are obligated to demonstrate a life of power

Don't feed yourself of what God has not done this leads to offence. Feed on the testimony of what he has done – remember every testimony lays the other side of a test! We must pray until something happens! **(1000 lbs boulder might not move but after trying to move it 500lbs boulders will move)** We need to **raise our experience up to the level of our revelation not reduce our revelation down to the level of our experiences**

## **5: Kingdom Revelation**

### **Introduction: Eps 1:17-19**

The Spirit of Revelation is essential for us to know God better – it is true to say that we become what we behold

**“Know him”, epignosis, which means full discernment recognition and acknowledgement.**

We are to go from Knowing about Him to knowing His ways.

Revelation shows you:

- Glorious Heart of the Father
- Glorious inheritance in the here and now
- Incomparably great power **huperballo** which means to throw beyond the boundary. In other words revelation does not just lead you to intimacy or power but to plans! Revelation allows you to live outside the “box” of human limitation so that you live free and attempt Kingdom purposes.

Revelation opens up a whole new realm or dimension to life as fragments of “Divine knowledge” are released into our understanding and experience. Take for example; gene therapy; as new DNA alters the behaviour of the host cell so the release of revelation in our spirits alters us.

### **What is revelation?**

The Greek word for revelation is **apokalypsis**; meaning to take away the veil. Pagan temples clouds of incense smoke hid the deity from the worshiper. Imagine the wind of Gods Spirit shredding the veil! God does not hide but is in the business of revealing his plans and purpose to those who seek Him. In the standard charismatic grid for getting revelation the motivation is often a personal need rather than a Kingdom destiny

**“Changing the course of world history is our assignment. Yet we have gone as far as we can with what we presently know...” Bill Johnson**

We need Gods Spirit to take away the veils so we can see into heaven to see the plans for what we have to build on the earth. Moses was told to build the tabernacle according to what he had seen on the mountain top

It is impossible to live the “normal Christian life” without regular inputs of revelation from Holy Spirit. **Hos 4:6** and **Prov 29:18**. Bible does not say “my people perish from a lack of money/bible teaching/pray but from a lack of revelation. (Lit - without a prophetic revelation people go unrestrained, walking in circles having no certain destiny...”

**“We thrive with prophetic revelation but perish without it...” Bill Johnson**

For us today revelation is the ability to receive and see invisible things in heaven and things that have not yet happened on the earth

**1Cor 2:9-10** Holy Spirit searches the biggest data base of knowledge ever – the heart of God. He is capable of downloading things from that data base to you. What sort of things?

- Things no eye has seen (Cannot be learnt by observation)
- Things no ear has heard (cannot be learnt from conversation)
- Things no mind has conceived (Cannot be arrived at intuitively)

If fact we don't even come close to getting it!! BUT God reveals things to us by the Spirit. The Spirits role is to flash into our spirits the “things” of God that they can be brought out into the physical world by the works of our minds and bodies. Spiritual truth is spiritually discerned not cerebrally thought!

### **Revelation sets the boundaries for your faith.**

The greater revelation a person receives the greater the faith they are able to exercise. Your faith, to do in the world, cannot go beyond the boundaries of your personal revelation. Increasing revelation of; personal design, prophetic destiny and kingdom purposes will enlarge the arena of faith in which you can operate. Deception shrinks that arena. (Deception involves robbed revelation or wrong revelation)

- Examples from the arena of finances

- Examples from the arena of healing

### **Revelation expands beyond the boundaries of the church!**

This is not a teaching about how to get “words” for people in church. This teaching is a key to releasing the Kingdom in the market place

**“Any gospel that does not work in the market place does not work...” Bill Johnson**

God is always doing new stuff and is always looking for co workers and share holders in his creativity. Revelation and creativity should hall mark the people of God. We do new things in new ways because that’s what our Daddy does and we are in the family business:

- New practices in education – example of American women diplomat
- New lyrics and melodies in music – not all the best tunes have yet been written. Worship leaders trip to heaven- your singing one of my songs no we let you borrow one of ours!!
- New patterns in art and drama – heaven is good at plot lines
- New inventions in engineering – bow design in a dream
- New theories in science and maths – computer code
- New methods of business organization and management

God has an opinion about “all things”. He has ways and solutions, to all human need to say otherwise, is to say he is cruel in the extreme! He has shrouded many of his ways in “mystery” not to hide it from us but to hide it for us to find (Easter egg hunt)

Our Kingdom purpose is to seek out these new designs by seeking revelation then bringing them forth to bless the world and expand our Fathers influence.

God wants his people to move into all the mind moulding spheres of society and colonize them with Kingdom concepts Education law, politics media, arts science etc. no sacred secular mind set! All callings are of equal value if placed at foot of the cross. An evangelist is no more Kingdom than shelf filler if both are seeking the Kingdom to come where ever they go. A Stock broker is as useful in the kingdom as a missionary nurse in Uganda

### **Conclusion & Application**

**Many Christians have a high sense of destiny but a low sense of detail.** Prophetic revelation can release the detail

Revelation is to be sort after like treasure and valued accordingly

Revelation is to be remembered – **Hab 2:2-3**

Revelation is to be acted upon – rows of pickled revelations in jars

- Ask Holy Spirit to act as Sp of revelation in your life.
- Don’t accept boundaries of knowledge “I can do all things” means in your thinking too!!
- Resist the Birds of the air that steal revelation
- Be Obedient to what you have received
- Use it or lose it, grows more certain with steps of obedience

Tell God you are desperate for more revelation on His terms. Tender hearted and hungry will be feed the level of openness and calling out is proportional to the revelation received. **Jer 33:3**

## **6: Kingdom Citizens**

Introduction: **Phil 3:20-21**

As citizens of a nation gather together they create a culture that reflects their values and beliefs. The kingdoms citizens should create a Kingdom culture.

Recently we have seen the beginnings of a culture shift in the church. In the 1950’s to 1970’s we saw a strong cross based message of personal salvation

very much “me” focused. In the 1970’s to 1990’s we saw a personal spirituality message based on the use of charismatic gifts very much “in house” In this new millennium we are seeing a Kingdom based narrative emerging based on working out our destiny in the world. This destiny based Kingdom mission requires that we all understand who we really are!

### Who Am I?

**Jn 3:3-5.** You can not enter or see the kingdom unless you are born again! Turning this round means that to be born again involves becoming a citizen of another kingdom. **Kingdom of God = *Basiliou Theo***; the rule and reign of God. The cross is the entry point into the Kingdom experience it is not an end in itself. The Kingdom experience is about an ever increasing level of Gods rule and reign in our lives. Being born again gets us in but also reveals to us that we are in a new place. We have been transferred out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of the son. **Col 1:13** - thus we have a new identity allegiance and authority. In effect we become totally new creations the old has gone and the new has come

**2Cor 5:16-17** When you look at Christians what do you see? There are different ways of seeing:

- **Worldly point of view** – outward social, down to earth factual
  - **Biblical point of view** – inward and spiritual greater reality (spiritual does not =unreal)
- Need to see same reality in a different wave length!
- *“If any one”* inclusive of all believers no special ones, *“is in Christ”* your life has been taken and immersed or hidden in the life of Christ **Col3:3.**
  - *“He is a new creation”* Our newness is like the squeaky clean perfection of the pre fall creation. Suddenly totally clean – the old has become something new, no evolutionary process.
  - *“The old has gone”* which part of gone do we not understand? We often go on living in the shadow of past failings and present blemishes as if they can disqualify us from being with God (Nothing can take you out of Gods hand **Jn 10:28**) We often settle for a second rate faith saying I am not worthy – Of course you are not worthy that’s the whole point and it’s time to get over it and get on with the Christian life anyway!!
  - *“The new has come”* a total replacement once and for all. An infinitely superior upgrade downloaded into your life!

### Becoming familiar with your new identity:

Satan constantly attacks your understanding of your new identity and nature. Remember he attacked Jesus as well “if you are the Son of God....?”

You are the person that God loves to hang out with:

- God loves
- God forgives
- God dwells within
- God has made clean
- God has forgiven

You are no longer a dirty **sinner** you are a **saved saint** so don't you dare contradict your Father!

This does not mean that I can not sin –it just means that I am no longer a professional sinner!

Jesus got what I deserved so I could get what only he deserved (Unmerited favour and sonship in other words grace!) Grace is not based on my performance or law keeping it's a fact independent of my performance. The new Kingdom we have become part of has a throne of grace **Heb 4:12**. We are to approach when we are in trouble not just when we feel OK!

**Grace is not another "law"**. Jesus has not come with another rule book but a relationship. In grace the favour come before the obedience. We are highly favoured people. In grace the commandments of God come fully equipped with the ability to perform them since the grace of the King enables what the King commands!

God is never honoured when we deny what Jesus did for us. Some theologians say that at our conversion at least **32 immediate irreversible and incredible things** occur.(Eternal security rather than the big stick threat of a lost salvation)

Here are some of them:

- Born again
- Regenerated
- Saved
- Indwelt by the Spirit
- Sealed by the Spirit
- Sanctified
- Redeemed
- Justified
- Translated
- Washed
- Freed
- Adopted
- Resurrected
- Seated with Christ

**When God saved you He did not just do enough to get you out of the red, He also deposited in you (Blessed you with every blessing) in order to get you into the black!**

When God brought you He brought all of your debts and all of your problems.(Toxic Bank debts!)

They are now His to fix. We have gone from being rotten sinners to born again saints in one second. Once the blood of Jesus has wiped away your sin you can not get any cleaner no matter what you do!!

We must start living out of who we really are; allowing the "true" nature of who we now are, to overwhelm the "lie" nature, of who you once were. The commands and instructions of scripture are not orders to be worked at they are promises to be received. The Holy Spirit works to a pattern. The ascended Jesus glorified at the right hand of the Father is the pattern the Holy Spirit looks to, and seeks to emulate in your life (**1 Jn 4:17 KJV "as He is so shall we be in this world"**)

We must see Jesus as He is and not as He was! Don't model, a pre Cross Jesus, suffering servant style. An authentic cross is always followed by a resurrection. Christians live life on the resurrection side of the cross conforming to a resurrected and glorified Jesus; being changed from one degree of glory to another

Most Christians have repented enough to be forgiven but not enough to see the Kingdom. Our repentance or change of mind has to be not just about what is sin but about the nature of who we are. Sin is now the alien and strange invader. Our nature is now the nature of Christ, that is the "norm", we are to speak it, bless it and expect it.

Is Jesus limited and unable? No He is not Pauls says he can do all things through Christ Jesus. You and I are designed to able triumphantly manifest and demonstrate the overcoming nature of our King and His Kingdom.

Aim of our Father is to raise up a race of people called the Sons of the Kingdom who will enforce the rule & reign of God on the earth. [Rm 8:19-21](#). All of creation will respond to the Sons revealing their Father!

## 7: Kingdom Anointing & the Spirit of Anti Christ

**Introduction:** [Mt 12:28](#), the demons were cast out by the Spirit of God the motive power source of the Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is empowered enlarged and enforced by the activity of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is in all that the Kingdom is in. He encompasses the Kingdom. He is inseparable from it but not the same as it. Where the Spirit is present

the liberty of the rule of God is seen (2Cor 3:17) The Kings domain is made manifest by the working of the Spirit. Any one lead by Spirit we will come into conflict with the other kingdom.

**Immediate & ultimate goals:** salvation is not the ultimate goal of Christ's coming! It was the intermediate target (without accomplishing redemption there was no hope of the ultimate goal). The ultimate goal was to form a people, a born again, citizenship of heaven, upon the earth, each filled to overflowing with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit! Eps 3:19 Rm 8:18-21.

**What is the anointing?** The anointing is the tangible expression of the Holy Spirit. Christ was not Jesus surname! Christ means anointed one. Not sufficient that Jesus was sent to earth with a title. He had to receive and anointing coming to him in an experience if He was to accomplish His mission. Jesus had laid aside his powers and was only able to do what he did in power of the anointing. The anointing of the Sp on Jesus started an intervention from heaven which still flows today. So by the Sp the "kingdom of heaven is at hand" not just our destination but our present experience within arms reach!

Anointing means literally "to smear" or "to pour over". Holy Sp as anointing oil of God was smeared over Jesus at His baptism. Today holy Sp wants to make Christians literally into little Christ – ones smeared with Holy Spirit. In the OT people were anointed for priesthood, kingship and prophet-hood. We today are anointed to be prophets' priests and members of a royal kingdom

**The Sprit of Anti Christ:** 1Jn2:18 anti Christ's in the church? Anti=against Christ = anointed one. Very few people are anti Jesus (good guru great teacher prophet) but many are anti Christ (trouble maker healer unpredictable). Early Christians saw the Anti Christ not just as some end time figure but as the spirit that is in opposition to the manifestation of the anointing of the Sp on Gods people.

**Jesus warns his disciples to be aware of the yeast of Herod & the Pharisees; Mark8:14-15**

Three leavens:

- **Yeast of the Kingdom;** relational loved based openness
- **Yeast of the Herod;** rationalism/humanistic/political; Herod was ruthless, murderous, persecuted the church and was a killer of God pleasers
- **Yeast of the Pharisees;** Religion, lacking in power, strong on form, seen by man, external for the praise of men.  
The anti anointing spirit of opposition can manifest itself in attitudes of humanism within the church.
- Prayer less focus on what we have, not on God ability to provide
- Miracles are exceptional not expected events
- Man is the measure; my brain is the standard for what's logical
- Rejects all mystery and suffering
- Works for mans approval and fears human rejection above divine approval

Another word for this spirit of opposition would be a religious sp.

Jesus shows that opposition to the Spirit and thus the anointing of the Kingdom was far more serious than opposition to Him! As usual His opposition was the religious people! It seems that the activity of the Spirits anointing either softens or hardens hearts “**The same sun that melts the ice hardens the clay....” Bill Johnson.**

People who are born again should have a DNA programmed with an expectation of the supernatural. This passion dissipates when it is taught against, reasoned away, not allowed to be exercised or buried under disappointment

**Sp of Anti Christ influences believers against the anointing and into religious forms. Religion tends to reject what it can not control!** Thus they reduce the Gospel to an intellectual proposition rather than a supernatural encounter. This spirit will allow the Holy Sp to be heard of and His power displayed, in the past or far away but not here and now. This spirit has the aim of creating a church that embraces Jesus without the anointing **2Tim 3:5** thus having the form but denying the power!!

Jesus does not set us free in the liberty of the Sp for us to become entrapped again by the demonic anti anointing spirits of religion & control, hallmarked by:

- Outward form
- lack of power
- word not spirit
- law keeping
- Knowledge over relationship
- trust of intellect over experience
- tablets of stone, relative goodness
- conformity of doctrine & uniformity of practice
- ceremonial traditions
- man made sufferings
- do what I say not what I do, emphasis on submission and covering
- one man leadership
- order above all
- Precedent and tradition and the worship of past achievements above present reality.

### **The religious sp feed on the residues of past revivals**

So Jesus is committed to moving us out of our religious social comfort zones to embrace a religious radicalizing of the Spirit

- Spirit wants to shape us for His service not our convenience
- Spirit comes to take over not to take sides. Only acceptable control in Church is that of the Sp.
- Spirit takes us into the realms of imbalance. Balanced people are stuck
- Spirit has no commitment to not rocking our boat (storms are not always from the devil!)
- Spirit has no commitment to maintain our current status-quo.
- The Spirit is committed to no other peace than His own

**Chasing the cloud of Gods presence.** Following of Jesus means to follow the anointing this is analogous to the Israelites having to follow the cloud in

the desert. The cloud helped them to know Gods presence and direction. Moses said “don’t send us up unless you go with us”. The issue is how much value do we set upon the primacy of Gods presence? And how do we recognise it today?

Many Christians struggle to follow the leading of the Sp because we tend to see him in such a narrow spectrum of phenomena e.g. conviction feelings of peace or brining a scripture to mind. We often have a small list of acceptable manifestations of the sp Recognition of situations with the Holy Sp finger prints on them is essential if we don’t want to end up grieving quenching or opposing the Sp presence when He does something different from what we believe He should do!

**Wide spectrum Holy Sp phenomena:** shaking, groaning laughing, roaring, dancing, goose bumps, up welling joy, up welling compassion, heat, fire, winds or breezes, mist, oil, aromas, gold dust, prophetic actions or movements, high praise shouts, light

**Fear of deception:** Fear of being deceived show we have too small a God. Such fear tends to fuel a “back to bible” mentality thinking this will protect us from deception. Bible study is presented as sound versus experience presented as unsound. Jesus said (Jn5:39) that if our study of scripture does not lead us to a deepening relational encounter with the anointing Sp of Jesus we are wasting our time.

Jesus did not say “my sheep will know my book...” it is His voice we are to know. The Bible is the word of God and his voice will always be confirmed by scripture but it is the voice of Jesus Sp that gives impact to what is in print. The Sp never contradicts the word of God but loves to contradict our understanding of it! None of us has a full grasp of scripture. The Spirit however does have such a grasp! He will lead us into all truth as we follow Him off the map (Which would you rather have anyway – a map or a tour guide?) Every time we follow the Sp off the page we fly in the face of the anti Christ sp that seek to keep Jesus safe and contained! As we follow the Sp we release the lion of Judah to prowl and roar once again!!

## 8: Kingdom Praying

“Prayer moves the arm that moves the world...” *O J Smith*

“The church has been negligent in one thing...she has not prayed the power of God out of heaven” *JG Lake*

**“If you want anything from God you will have to pray into heaven. That is where it all is. If you live in the earth realm and expect to receive from God you will never get anything!” *Smith Wrigelsworth***

We have to touch heaven in our praying and act obediently on the earth to see things happen. There is a link between prayer and practical obedience. We most often have to do something to see heavens answer released

**True worship of God has two threads to it:**

- Intimacy – expressed in worship to God; “Holy is your name” “This is who you are”
- Dominion – expressed in actions for God; “May your Kingdom come” “This is what we want to do in response”

The Lords prayer holds these two aspects in perfect tension and is the model for our praying into heaven to see Heaven come down, **Mt 6:9-13:**

- *“Our Father in heaven...”* God is our life source. He is full of provision security and comfort we are not alone and must not act as independent orphan spirited people. Our daddy in heaven wants to release all he has for us.  
Our Father is in Heaven; what God has done for us to adopt us into heaven will elicit from us a worship response. Praise & worship are the primary activity of heavenly beings. The more we live as citizens of heaven so the more heavens activities seep into our life style and responses.
- *“Hallowed be your name...”* God’s name is to be honoured, holy, set apart, special and totally worthy of worship. So that worship becomes our number one priority in ministry. Everything else is flavoured by this activity. God literally inhabits the praises of his people (Ps 22:3 KJV) it attracts heaven attention heavens ear and heavens activity. (Paul & Silas in prison) God invades your circumstances on the back of worship. Worship changes spiritual atmospheres (Street work). God’s presence manifests itself around right worship – Tabernacle/cloud. Praise release God into battle on our behalf! (Praise is a two edged sword Ps 149:6)
- *“Your name...”* Gods’ names are a description of the divine nature that manifests itself through rightly directed praise. The God who provides, God the warrior, the God who sees, the God who heals etc. God always answers prayer in line with his revealed nature
- *“Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...”* Primary focus of all prayer is that, that which exists in heaven should be loosed on the earth. Heaven is the model earth is the workshop of its multiplication and production. Prayer looses heavens expressions hear and now. Our praying is according to what the King says – very specific and focused on His concerns. This sort of praying grabs hold of the reality that what the King says is more “real” than the real

physical world I live in. (God word is eternal and eternal is for ever!) Faith means holding on to this and not letting go until an invasion of heavens reality causes circumstances on the earth to line up with those in heaven. Thus we should expect increased manifestation of heavens life on earth and an increase in the ruling presence of God. God is not content just to rule in heaven (**Ps103:19**). Where the Spirit is there is liberty – the fruit of Gods dominion on the earth is Liberty from the effects of the fall. Conversely if something does not exist in heaven it can be rested and bound on this earth because it is not Gods will! **Mt 16:19**; Dominion praying with the keys of the Kingdom releasing that which is decreed in heaven and binding that which is not released.

- *“Give us our daily bread...”* For Jesus, His food was to do what His Father wanted. Part of what the Father wants is for us to release heavens provision on the earth now! Is anyone starving in heaven? So we can expect an abundant supply to serve the purposes of the King. Heaven sets the standard for the Christians material world; enough to satisfy all desires born of God, in order to do every good work (**2Cor 9:8**) Jesus has been given *all things* (Phil 4:19) Heavens resources released into the now – apply to the bank of heaven! Heavens resources released to fund & feed heavens purposes on the earth.
- *“And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us...”* Is there any unforgiveness or bitterness in heaven? Heaven provides the template for earths relationships (**Eps 4:32- 5:1**) Jesus exemplifies Kingdom relationships and desires that which is in heaven to start invading our lives today
- *“Do not lead us in to temptation but deliver us from the evil one...”* There is no temptation and sin in heaven God does not tempt us. No evil is able to exist in heaven. We are asking for that in us, that the devil would have no hold over us and we would be resisting him every time we come across him.

**God Kingdom is like a perfect franchise.** Heaven is the perfect model that can then be franchised out! A new franchise is always modelled on the basis of a successful flagship company. When we pray for the Kingdom to come what we are asking the Father to do is to overlay the pattern of His world over our failed pattern to conform it to the franchise model until this world looks like His world.

Gods self imposed limitation is that he will not act without people! He loves partnering with you and me to create new realities via prayer and praise. He acts in the affairs of men in response to the prayers of men. We have his delegated authority on the earth. Prayer is the vehicle that allows a legitimate invasion of earth by heaven. If we do not pray we allow the darkness to continue to rule unaffected by the Kingdom.

**Phil 3:20. We are citizens of another Kingdom.** Our citizen ship is in Heaven. This world is not our home it is our assignment. The purposes of God for us are eternal. The resources available to us are therefore without limit!

**We have the privilege of representing heaven *in this world* in order that we might bring a manifestation of heaven *to this world!***

We are ambassadors! Ambassadors are living in one world whilst they are representing another. Embassies and ambassadors form part of the sovereign territory of their home nation. You are heaven upon the earth! **Josh 1:3** “every where the sole of your foot shall tread”

- The income of the ambassador is that of his home not the nation he serves in. All the nations’ resource is available for him to do his job
- The power of the ambassador is equal to the power of the armed forces of his nation **Heb1:14!**

Prayer is not a whinge and whine session with long faces carrying the burden! It is a listening & proclaiming time, then looking for the answer and proclaiming again, until we get visibly tangibly on the earth, what we have seen/heard from heaven.

Prayer is not some random encounter with a celestial slot machine that might or might not pay out sometime. Rather it is the deliberate alignment of will faith and obedience with heavens words and will until they are manifested on the earth!

## 9: Kingdom Come

### **Introduction: The End Point of the Journey:**

For any journey you need to know the destination before you can plan your route. What you put into your “Sat Nav” will determine where you end up and what you see on the journey! A wrong end point for Gods project will lead to

wrong expectations amongst his people and this will lead to wrong behaviours.

**Rev 11:15** end point is the total domination of the earth by a heavenly invasion. This invasion is called the Kingdom of God. So what is the end of all things to look like and how do we get there?

(Lady who criticised my preaching about revival because did I not know that in the end the faith was going to grow cold etc) What are our expectations of the end times?

### **The two threads of Biblical history:**

- **Downward spiral thread**; faith of many will grow cold great darkness will cover the earth the anti Christ is coming and the church is a desperate remnant hanging on for life etc
- **Upward spiral thread**: great revival harvest, glory of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea, the Christ is coming for his victorious bride who is with out spot blemish or wrinkle

**Both are true it is just that one is truer than the other!** Both can operate simultaneously in a nation/community/individual. Which are we going to major on? Why do we major on Satan and his plans – what we believe about the end times affects every thing we do and the way we live now!

The negative view leads to a **“Church as the life boat” mentality** (in this view increasing evil actually becomes the will of God which is of course impossible) The Kingdom coming view sees everything up for grabs and we have a job to do which is to bring in the Kingdom and redeem the cultures and planet.

If you want to rescue passengers from a sinking ship you need a small boat and it’s a quick and simple exercise. But what if the plan is to save the ship? You need time to tow, dock, refurbish and re-launch the vessel better than she was before!

***“God does not regard the history of nations as though the only significance of that history is to yield individual believers. Quite the contrary, their history and culture with all that it has produced will be subjected to a liberating process...”***  
**Wim G Rietkirk**

The purpose of God in the “end times” which started at the resurrection and will continue to Christ’s final return is that the church is an agent of this liberating process. If we have a negative expectation of the outcome we end up seeing the church hanging on by its finger nails and at the last gasp Jesus appears to beam us up to heaven and deal with that nasty powerful Devil Such a view will mean we always bias our interpretation of “end time” passages to fit this expectation.

No where is this bias more clearly demonstrated than in the normal exposition of **2 Peter 3:10-14**.

- “Thief” is seen as bad and dangers coming
- Every thing will be destroyed

- Fire is bad
- Everything man has made will be reduced to nothing
- We trade in this earth for a totally new heavenly home

**There are several things wrong with this interpretation:**

**Problem 1:** This view would contradict other sayings and promises in Scripture i.e. **Rom 8:19** says that creation is waiting for the sons of God to be revealed not that it is waiting to be destroyed. **Mt 5:5** says the meek will inherit the earth not a burnt rock!

**Problem 2:** Peter was not thinking as a 21<sup>st</sup> century scientist but rather as a 1<sup>st</sup> century theologian!

- Peter was probably trying to contradict the prevailing Stoic (Greek) worldview in this passage. They expected that the earth was going to be destroyed by fire. So it's unlikely that Peter was agreeing with them.
- When Peter talks of the elements being destroyed he is not thinking of the modern periodical table of elements (This had not been thought of yet!) We as modern people have lived too long in the shadow of nuclear annihilation with its fusion of element so that why our mind could jump to this sort of destruction scenario.
- Stoics only had four elements: earth air fire and water. Peter may have been referring to these but this is not likely since it says the element will be destroyed, yet the agent of that destruction is fire, so at least one element would remain un-destroyed.

**What does the word elements mean in the rest of scripture?** "Elements" come from the Grk word **Stoichiea** it means literally to stand in a row like ABC. It's used positively in Heb5:12 elementary doctrines the basic building blocks of the faith.

Mostly however, stoichiea is used negatively, in the NT. **Gal 4:3 & 4:9 Col2:8 & 2:20** being examples and clearly refers not to physical matter but to spiritual entities. For Paul the stoichiea were a negative organized spiritual system opposed to Gods rule in the heavenly realms

This fits with "the heavens passing away with a great noise" in the last day a Jesus returns the powers and principalities on which Satan's rule and reign depends will fall from their positions to make way for the final acts of the kingdom coming on the earth.

**Problem 3:** Peter does not seem to have a problem with fire. For him it seems a good thing not a threat.

Fire was used to purify – fire that burns but does not destroy is a common OT theme starting with the Burning Bush, **Jer 9:7 and Zech 13:9**

The idea was that fire could burn up the dross leaving the remainder pure and fit for Gods service. Some things get destroyed in the process; ungodly men in v7 and the elemental spirits in v10 but the rest. The believers, the planet and the cultures on it go through a purification time.

Peter is basing his teaching on the day of the lord on ideas in the prophet Malachi (**Mal 3:3f**). The Lord acts as a silver smith; in the crucible dross burns off, pure silver coalesces in a ball and reflects the face of the refiner. God is

restoring his image in the creation by a process of purification which will reach its climax on the day Jesus returns.

But surely the text says burnt up or laid bare = destroyed! Lit the text says “the earth and the works upon it will be found” The word found is derived from the **Grk word *heurestestai*** this word is used elsewhere to talk about that which was lost now being restored for example in **Lk 15:24** this son of mine was lost but now he is found (*heurestai*) Thus a process of accelerating purification will result in the creation being found again by its creator.

**Problem 4:** Must the old creation be removed in order to have the new heaven and new earth? **2Pt 3:13** two words for new:

- **neos = brand new just come into being fresh like a baby**
- **kainos= new and improved restored updated with new qualities**

**2Cor 5:17** use Kainos about us at rebirth **2Pt 3:13** uses Kainos to speak on the new heaven and earth. It means new and improved arising out of the old not brand new

### **Conclusions:**

In the end times there will be an accelerated sense of change and transformation as Lord seeks to redeem and transform all the earth by the agency of an invading Kingdom released by an advancing Church. This process will reach its climax on the day of the Lords return but has started now. So every area of society is to be brought into the Lords crucible for purification and change. (Mind moulders and transformation video). Our job is to redeem cultures and people not condemn them to destruction. So then end goal of the journey is an earth fit for Jesus to return to. He will perfect what we start until this world is a suitable dwelling place fore Him to dwell and have his new heaven