

LESSON ONE THE THREE KINGDOMS

The icy grip of the world struck into my very bones, I was alone, afraid of the searching fingers of life's confusion. Hard and ice clad, I would stare at the wind swept skies.

Something in the sky's timeless glory stood silent watch, it's perfect loveliness seemed strange and unreal. There was a sacred wonder showing through its beauty.

A beauty that awoke my mind to the way of God, a love that melted my heart to read the Bible. A light that revealed the truth given by Jesus.

Like a star to guide the way, He led me to the Fellowship of God's people, the church. Silently alone, the skies of all earth's beauty, showed me to this new life, a life in the beauty of God's love.

Thinking about what I had written those many years ago, I realised, through nature, that I was actually living in more than one realm. There was the natural worldly realm of nature, yet there was a spiritual realm behind it, and it was this realm that showed me through the beauty of nature to the things of God. I then also realised that there were two spiritual realms, one ruled by the good, God and His angels and the other ruled by evil, the devil and his demons.

Three Kingdoms? All in a different realm? Can we access them while on earth? Would it make any difference? These are just a few questions that need answers.

We live on the kingdom of this world. We enter it through birth and depart from it through death. This means that the kingdom of this world is only a temporary realm and is ruled by the natural rules of nature. We live on earth through the physical realm and deal with solid materials around us.

Many millions of people believe that the material realm on this kingdom of the world is all there is, so therefore live for the now, giving no thought to beyond it. We grow up in the physical realm, getting our education from the world and often find ourselves living in a very limited way. We would like to break out of it, but would not know where to start.

Many people also struggle with bondage or sickness and assume this is from the physical realm only, but there are also spiritual realms behind these attacks. Now the question I ask is, if the Spiritual realm can access the worldly realm, then is it must be possible to cross from one realm into another realm, even while alive in the kingdom of the world?

The other two kingdoms are spiritual kingdoms. These kingdoms are not bound by earthly limitations and can influence the worldly kingdom if invited in. Once a person leaves the earthly realm they shall enter one of the two spiritual realms. Either the Kingdom of Heaven which is positive in every way, or the kingdom of darkness which is negative in every way.

There is a natural body and there is a spiritual body.

There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. 1 Corinthians 15; 40

The Kingdom of Heaven was always in existence. It is the dwelling place of God who created the Heavens and the earth. It is the place of love, joy and peace, free from sin, sickness and death.

The Kingdom of Heaven is run by God and His angels. It is a place of truth and righteousness. It is also beautiful in every way.

The Bible speaks a lot about the Kingdom of Heaven, especially the New Testament. John the Baptist was the first to preach that the Kingdom of Heaven was **to be** at hand. Then Jesus came and preached that the Kingdom of Heaven **is** at hand. Then he sent out his 12 disciples to preach that the Kingdom of Heaven **is** at hand. Then He told us to preach that the Kingdom of Heaven **is** at hand.

And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24.14

“We must share the Gospel, because Satan at present is in control of the kingdom of this world. Satan’s cunning plans are to prevent all people from hearing the message of Jesus Christ. It is not just for the evangelist or the preacher - we can all share Jesus with our family, our neighbours and those we work with. We can also live as Jesus lived, make a stand for what is right... for what the Bible says is truth.

*Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give thee, if you will fall down and worship me. Then Jesus said to him. “**Be gone, Satan: for it is written, Thou shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.** Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. Matthew 4; 8-9*

The devil could not tempt Jesus in the wilderness, or anywhere else. But the devil will still try and tempt us, but when the end of the world comes, things will be very different.

*And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The Kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ , and He shall reign forever and ever. Revelation 11; 15***

What about our present time? Due to the fall of man, man gave this perfect world that at that time did not know sin, sickness or death, over to the devil in exchange for the knowledge of good and evil. Man was then cut off from God, spiritually dead to be born in the flesh only. Not only that, but the devil was then able to inflict sin, sickness and death onto all mankind.

We are therefore born into this world into the kingdom of darkness.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3; 23

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psalm 51;5

The kingdom of darkness is the opposite to the Kingdom of Heaven in every way. It came into being through the devil wanting to take the place of God in Heaven, in the Old King James Version it says,

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cast down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the North. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most high. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, saying, Is this the man that made the world tremble, that did shake kingdoms: That made the world a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners. Also read Ezekiel 28; 14-19. Isaiah 14; 12-17

I am both writing a book and a new course for our Step Out In Faith Bible Schools of Evangelism at the same time. Because so very many people have very little knowledge on the Kingdom of darkness, I feel I should keep some scriptures for the more studious readers to look up, if they should like to. I also want to highlight that each of the three kingdoms are very different to each other, in origins, attributes, residents, structure and realm of activity.

Here are some Scriptures on the kingdom of Satan, the kingdom of darkness.

His origin,

John 1.3, and Colossians 1 16 - 17. Its former glory, Isaiah 14. 12-15, Ezekiel 28 12-19. His former position, Ezekiel 28.14. His fall Ezekiel 28.12-19. He also has various names.

His attributes,

He is intelligent and subtle, 2 Corinthians 1.3, emotional, Revelation 12.17, self willed, 2 Timothy 2.26, proud, 1 Timothy 3.6, powerful, Ephesians 2.2, deceitful, Ephesians 6:11, fierce and cruel, 1 Peter 5: 5-8 and deceptive, 2 Corinthians 11;14.

Residents of Satan's kingdom.

He is the ruler of demons, Matthew 12; 22-28, their origin Revelation 12; 7-9 and Jude 6

Demonic spirit attributes,

They are spiritual beings Matthew 8;16 and Luke 10; 17-20.

They believe, James 2; 19. They exercise their wills, Luke 8; 32 and 11; 24

They demonstrate intelligence, Mark 1; 24.

They are emotional Luke 8; 28 and James 2; 19.

They recognise Acts 19; 15.

They have supernatural strength, Acts 19; 16 and Mark 5; 23.

They have supernatural presence Daniel 9; 21-23 and 10-10-14.

Their structure

They are united Matthew 12; 26-45, Luke 8; 30 and Timothy 4; 1.

They are organised in forces, Luke 8; 30 to degrees of wickedness Matthew 12; 43-45.

They are organised in structure, Ephesians 1; 21, 3;10, 6;12 and Romans 8; 38.

There are different kinds of demons, Matthew 10;1 and Timothy 4;1.

Their realm of activity

They have access to God's Presence Job 1;6-7 and to the whole earth.

Residents of the kingdom of darkness,

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire, Revelation 20; 15

A latest app heads, "Heaven or destruction is all in the mind" but you cannot use the power of positive thought to hide sin, it is still there and needs to be eradicated through repentance.

Only God has the answer,

The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." Revelation 21; 7-8

For you may be sure of this, but everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, and idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Ephesians 5; 5

We see from these verses that the devil is out to deceive mankind to try to entice them into all manner of sin, because he hates God for throwing him out of Heaven for his sin, and he hates man because man is created in the image of God. The devil also knows that God loves man, so to hurt God, he is trying to drag as many human beings as possible into hell with himself. But God has done something about this.

Therefore, Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned. Romans 5; 12

If because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the free gift of righteousness reign in life through one man Jesus Christ. Romans 5; 17

After writing my first book of poetry, I was invited to go with a group of people to stay at a hostel at the top of Sani pass in South Africa. The Lord told me to take a copy of the book with me. Once we arrived, the group left me alone at the hostel for the night, as they were invited onto another place.

Alone in that hostel and the only woman there, I was told to stay in my room, as a known rapist had just booked into the hostel. The only problem there were no keys to lock myself in.

The Lord then told me to take the book and go into the lounge and give it to the rapist. With fear I obeyed, gave the book to him, and sat down in a chair opposite him.

The rapist read the book from cover to cover. He then looked up and asked me, "Where can I obtain this book" "It is yours, the Lord told me to give it to you" I said. He replied "Thank you so much, will you pray for me? I want to become a Christian." I led him through the sinner's prayer and he truly repented. He got up and said "I must leave this hostel right now, I need to warn my family and friends and bring them to Christ right now."

He left the hostel and immediately became an evangelist and has led many to Christ over many years. I went to bed that night praising God for what He had done.

I am not advocating that everyone do what I did by communicating with this type of person. But what I am saying is that, it is possible to hear God's voice clearly and obey him. I am also using this illustration to show that God can transform lives, if one truly repents, God can use him or her to his glory and bring others into the Kingdom of heaven too.

It is so important to receive what Jesus did on the cross for us, and allow Him to transfer us out of the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Heaven, as we seriously and sincerely follow Jesus in truth and righteousness.

The fall of man causing sin to enter this world was not a surprise to God. God had pre-ordained that his son, Jesus Christ, would leave the heavenly kingdom and come to this earthly kingdom to be born of a virgin, in order to save man from sin and reconcile man back to God.

Believers have a greater power than Satan and his demons.

And when he had called unto Him his twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. Matthew 10; 1

You can also look up Mark 6; 7 and 9; 38.

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying. Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. Luke 10; 17

And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women. Inso-much that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one. Acts 5; 14-16

For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city. Acts 8; 7-8 Also look up Acts 16;16-18

So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and evil spirits went out of them. Acts 19; 12

Let's see some scriptures of the future of Satan's kingdom, the kingdom of darkness,

And, they cried out, saying. What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time, Matthew 8; 29 and see Luke 8; 28

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgement. 2 Peter 2-4 And see Jude 6.

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the Dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great Dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the Earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Revelation 12; 7-9

And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. Revelation 20; 10

Who ever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, as he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. 1John 3; 8

God threw Lucifer out of heaven onto earth where he caused the fall of man in Genesis. His kingdom is run by himself, also known as the devil and his demons. Through Adam and Eve eating the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, it gave the devil access into the kingdom of this world to bring into it sin sickness and death.

It is therefore up to man as to which Kingdom he invites in, the Kingdom of Heaven, or stay in the kingdom of darkness. Man actually has a big responsibility of right choice. It is such a shame that the two spiritual kingdoms are educated out of man through our education system, the Governmental system and the media.

The Kingdom of God is the same as the Kingdom of Heaven and is identified with the Kingdom of the Father.

I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my father's Kingdom." Matthew 26; 29

The Kingdom of God is not a denomination, but of those who become residents of it through accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and becoming born again through the Holy Spirit into the eternal Kingdom of Heaven. The church should be providing the model of life in the eternal Kingdom of Heaven and operate by the Kingdom patterns and principles with demonstration.

Prayer connects us to the Kingdom of Heaven.

In today's living, prayer has become very neglected by the world. The world will concentrate more on the reality of internet, social media and all the things that go with it, to make businesses and connections with each other more efficient, yet totally neglect the power of prayer, that far exceeds all that man has ever invented.

When one thinks about the power of prayer, great men of God like Elijah come to mind in the Old Testament, and of course Jesus and His glorious relationship with His Father in prayer, enabled wonderful miracles and healing to become reality. The miracles, healing, casting out of demons and raising people from the dead far outweigh anything man has ever invented. It is an interesting fact that every miracle, every healing, every deliverance, every person that Jesus raised from the dead was a result of Him praying first.

When Jesus ascended to Heaven, He sent His Holy Spirit to dwell within all who receive Him, to help them in their prayer lives. Great men of God who learnt the power of prayer through history, therefore achieved great things for Christ in this world, yet today prayer has become so neglected.

In comparison with viruses that continually attack one's computers, I believe the devil is also continually attacking one's prayer life, to try and stop us from connecting with God.

Prayer can become a real battle due to this, and we need to persist seriously in prayer until we really break through into God's glorious and powerful presence. Prayer gives us everything we ever need, to serve the Lord and to influence this world back to Him. True prayer therefore by far, exceeds anything that man has ever thought of, or invented.

The fact is, one just has to look around us, to see the influences of both Kingdoms in our lives.

The spiritual realms affect the material realm and the ways we deal with things. With this in mind, I see it as extremely important to study this very important subject.

We have no choice to be born in the physical realm on earth, but we do have a choice to be born again into the Spiritual Heavenly Realm. As we need lungs to breath in the physical, we need the Holy Spirit to breath in the spiritual realm, for without the Holy Spirit we are spiritually dead.

As natural gifting helps us on earth, so spiritual gifts help us in the spiritual realm and the spiritual gifts will help us reach the nations for Christ. As we receive teaching, understanding and protection from the Lord, we can then step out in Faith.

How does moving into the supernatural spiritual realm happen? Simply by obeying and trusting God completely. We obey what God tells us to do and God simply does the rest. He does what we cannot do, He moves in power and authority. He moves in the supernatural causing healing and miracles to simply happen. Suddenly we are moving in this higher realm In Him, trusting in Him alone. We move from the natural earthly realm into the supernatural realm.

But first there is a battle to fight. We have to overcome the obstacles (the mountains) in the way. Unbelief is usually the mountain we have to fight.

For example, in India I was asked to pray for a woman with a totally bent, crushed upper arm, caused by being run over four months previously. Healing looked totally impossible. She had it in a sling, very swollen and had no movement in either her forearm or hands, that were totally limp. Not only that, people were crowding into her house, as they were told that a miracle healing would take place.

I had to face the mountain of doubt in my way. "Lord you can do anything" I whispered and commanded the doubt to leave me in Jesus Name. I pointed my hand towards her to pray and suddenly I moved out of the natural realm into the supernatural realm as faith rose from within me. As I prayed for her arm the swelling went down, she removed her sling, bent her arm, moved her fingers and everyone screamed with delight at a wonderful miracle healing. I then gave the Gospel message and led then through the sinner's prayer.

Only as the mountain of doubt was removed, could I speak out in Faith and watch Jesus do the healing. We must see by Faith and not give into the flesh that says it cannot be done. We make the choice, take authority over the mountain in Jesus Name and then command the healing in Jesus Name. We then simply "let God be God."

LESSON TWO PARABLES OF THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

Jesus taught through parables to explain a spiritual truth through a natural means. This would enable the people to understand what He was teaching them. He also used parables that only those who were born spiritually would understand, as people who are not born again cannot understand spiritual things. I believe Jesus did this for a very good reason. Only those who receive His Kingdom into their lives will be able to understand and live from this higher level of living.

Jesus gave us a number of parables on the Kingdom of Heaven. Through them He wanted to teach us how important, how valuable and how precious the Kingdom of Heaven really is. He spoke on the pearl of great price and the hidden treasure to show us great value of the Kingdom of Heaven, as well as how valued we are in God's Kingdom. Jesus had brought the Kingdom with Him and He wants to give it to us. If only we would believe this and receive the Kingdom of Heaven from Jesus. But it seems we want to rather be satisfied to live out our faith for Him at such a low level compared, that we are almost non effective in our service for Him.

Let's look at Matthew. These Scriptures are from the N.K.J.V

The Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys the field.

Again the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. Matthew 13; 44- 46

The qualities and character of Kingdom Citizens.

Let us read about how we should enter the kingdom of heaven

And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 18; 2-4

1) **We should approach God in humbleness like a child.** A child has true humility and is not aware of false humility.

2) **Forgiveness is from the heavenly realm.**

Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him 10,000 talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, have patience on me, and I will pay you everything. And out of pity for him, the master of the servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, pay what you owe. So his fellow