

***Fountaingate Christian Foundation presents...***

**The  
King's  
Table**

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**Series  
The Treasures of  
the Kingdom**

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***Sending the Word of God to the  
Ends of the Earth***

# *A Personal Letter to You*

*Dear Friend,*

*Welcome to this series of "The King's Table" on  
"The Treasures of the Kingdom".*

*We believe it is of great importance for every  
believer in Christ to understand and experience  
the truths of the Kingdom. The Lord Jesus,  
Himself, placed priority on the coming of the  
Kingdom to the earth, as did His apostles later.  
Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "Your  
Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven"  
(Matthew 6:10) and His message was "The  
Kingdom of God is at hand"! (Mark 1:15 KJV)*

*The Kingdom is established first in the hearts  
of every believing individual and then in the  
nations of the earth as the believer, in turn,  
goes forth preaching the gospel of the Kingdom  
in every sphere of life in the world in which  
they live (Matthew 24:14).*

*Our prayer is that these studies will so effect  
your life that the world around you will be  
"turned upside down" (Acts 17:6 KJV).*

*Every blessing,*

*Paul and Bunty Collins*

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# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## The Kingdom of God

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10.

### Priority of Prayer

The prayer the Lord Jesus taught His disciples in Matthew 6:9-13, has been repeated millions of times, throughout the ages, by believers all over the world. However, how many of us have realized exactly what we are praying? This sample prayer expresses the priority of the heart of God...the coming of His kingdom *on earth!*

### The high treason of Adam & Eve

Adam and Eve were given the responsibility to bring God's loving dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:26-28) but when they yielded to the Enemy's temptation to be gods in their own right, independent from God (Genesis 3:1-7), they committed high treason. They sold out the dominion of the earth to Satan (Ephesians 2:1-2).

### Priority of the King

A kingdom is the absolute rule and reign of a king over the lives of men and women in a region. Since the handing over of earth to Satan by Adam and Eve, God's priority has been the restoration of His Kingdom on earth (1 Tim. 6:15).

### Promise of the coming King

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this"* Isaiah 9:2,6-7.

With this promise, all Israel's focus (and the world's hope) was on the coming of the King.

### Priority of Message

At the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ - the King of kings (Revelation 17:14) - the priority of the message that was declared was that God's Kingdom had come!

**John:** *"In those days John the Baptist came, preaching... 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near' "* Matthew 3:1-2.

**Jesus:** *"Jesus went throughout Galilee... preaching the good news of the kingdom..."* Matt. 4:23 (Luke 17:20-21).

*"After his suffering... He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God"* Acts 1:3.

**Disciples:** *"As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near'"* Matthew 10:6 (Luke 10:8; Acts 8:12).

**Paul:** *"Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ"* Acts 28:31 (19:8; 28:23).

### Priority of the Ages

The message has not changed! Between now and the Second Coming of Jesus believers are called to declare the same good news to the world - "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!"

*"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come"* Matthew 24:14.

*"Then the end will come, when he [Jesus] hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power"* 1 Cor. 15:24 (Eph. 1:9-10).

# The King's Table

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## The Hidden Treasure

“ The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Matt.13:44 ”

### **The Treasure in the Field**

One method of “banking” money in ancient times was to bury it. Jesus uses this in His parable. The treasure in the field is a picture of our salvation and the glory of God’s love for us and what we mean to Him (1 John 3:1-2).

#### **The Man**

The Lord Jesus took on human form (Philippians 2:6-8). He is called the “Son of Man”.

#### **The Field**

The field is a picture of the world (Matthew 13:38)

#### **The Treasure**

Hidden in the field (the world) is something very precious to God - all of those who are lost but whose hearts cry out to know Him.

#### **Sold all He Had**

In his great joy at finding the treasure he sells all he has in order to get it. The Lord Jesus left His glory in Heaven and gave His all for us. He experienced our depth of suffering and separation from His Father in order to gain us (Mark 15:34; Hebrews 12:2).

#### **Bought the Field**

“...you were bought at a price” 1 Cor.6:20.

Jesus said this is what the Kingdom of Heaven is like...it is filled with God’s “treasure”...that which He loves above all... “the ‘apple’ of His eye” (Deuteronomy 32:10)...His beloved ones...the “many sons” brought into glory (Hebrews 2:10). We are His “inheritance”. Ephesians 1:18...

“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...”

### **The Seeking Merchant**

A merchant is a person who is seeking for valuable items. He pictures men and women who are looking for what will give them fulfilment and pleasure in life.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled” Matthew 5:6.

#### **The Pearl of Great Price**

A pearl is formed when a piece of grit gets into the oyster’s shell. It is formed through suffering. The pearl of great price is the Lord Jesus Christ who suffered on the Cross for us. The gates of Heaven are made of pearl (Rev.21:21), again speaking of the Lord Jesus. He is the only entry into the presence of God.

“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” John 14:6 (Acts 4:12).

#### **Sells all He Has**

Jesus said this is what the Kingdom of Heaven is like...it is filled with people who love Him above all things, who are willing to surrender everything in order to know Him and have Him in their lives.

“What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ” Phil.3:8.

#### **Possesses the Pearl**

The Lord is centre of the lives and hearts of the people of the Kingdom (Colossians 3:1-2; 2 Corinthians 4:18).

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## John's Trumpet Call

‘ In those days John the Baptist came, preaching...  
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." ’

### ***The Anointing of Elijah***

The prophet Elijah ushered in a great visitation of God to the people of his day (1 Kings 17:1 through to 2 Kings 2:15). Malachi prophesies that Elijah was going to come again...

*"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes" Malachi 4:5.*

The anointing of Elijah was to usher in the coming of the Messiah, the King. All Israel was looking for his coming. Read Luke 1:5-25. The angel Gabriel proclaims to Zechariah that his son, John, will bear the anointing of Elijah. See also Matthew 11:14.

### ***Preparing the Way***

*"He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: 'A voice of one calling in the desert, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation"' Luke 3:3-6*

#### ***How the way is prepared***

##### ***Every valley filled in***

The **degraded**, discouraged, disillusioned transformed by the Lord's love filling their hearts.

##### ***Every mountain and hill made low***

The **proud** brought down to true humility with the revelation of what Jesus has done.

##### ***Crooked road made straight***

**Sinful lives** brought into line with God's righteousness through His wonderful gift (Romans 1:17).

### ***Rough ways made smooth***

**Relationships** healed through transformed lives.

### ***John's Message***

John is sent to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord...to declare that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand and for people to prepare for it. His message is the same call today as we prepare people for the Second Coming of Jesus:

#### ***Repent***

Repent means a total about-turn - turning one's back to sin and turning to focus on God and His righteousness.

#### ***Be baptised***

John's baptism was for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' baptism is "to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). Since the finished work of the Cross baptism is the believer's burial service of the old person we were outside of Christ (Romans 6:1-11).

#### ***Produce fruit of repentance***

Read Luke 3:7-14. John projects some aspects of the culture of the Kingdom - a totally different life-style to the world. He exhorts believers not to abuse...

#### ***Provision***

*"The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same" verses 10-11.*

#### ***Position***

*"[Tax collectors] Don't collect any more than you are required to" verse 13.*

#### ***Power***

*"[Soldiers] Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely - be content with your pay" verse 14.*

# The King's Table

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## The King of Kings Arrives

6 I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God...because that is why I was sent. Luke 4:43 9

### The King is Announced

#### The Magi's declaration

Read Matthew 2:1-12. The arrival of the Magi in Jerusalem caused a tremendous stir...not only to Herod but to the whole city. They were looking for the King of kings (the "Christ"). Herod, the religious leaders and all Jerusalem knew the King had come! The Magi's gifts declared their understanding and insight - gold for a king, frankincense for worship of the one divine, and myrrh foretelling the death He would die.

#### The Holy Spirit's declaration

Read Luke 2:25-38. Simeon and the prophetess, Anna, moved by the Holy Spirit, both declare in the temple that Jesus is the Christ, the King of the Kingdom they were all waiting for.

#### John the Baptist's declaration

All the people were wondering if John was the Christ but he declared of Jesus...

"... one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire" Luke 3:16 (read vs 15-18; Matthew 4:11-12).

#### The Father's declaration

"... 'This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him'" Luke 9:35 (Mark 1:11).

#### Jesus' declaration

"[Jesus] found the place where it is written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour' ...Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing'" Luke 4:17-21 (see also Luke 7:22).

### The King's Commission

#### Good news to the poor

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" Matt.5:3 (Luke 6:20)

#### Freedom for the prisoners

##### Free from sin

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free...I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin...So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" John 8:32-36.

##### Free from judgment

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned..." John 3:17-18 (Rom.5:15-17).

##### Free from the Law

"... through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:1-2 (7:24-25; 8:3-4, 15).

#### Recovery of sight for the blind

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you..." Ephesians 1:17.

#### Release for the oppressed

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me...and you will find rest for your souls" Matt.11:28-29.

#### The year of the Lord's favour

"From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" Jn 1:16-17.

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## The King of all Glory

“ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders... Isaiah 9:6 ”

Isaiah prophesied of the coming of the King - the Lord Jesus - the hope of a dying world. Under His rule is the answer to the desire of every person. He is...

### **The Light of the World**

*“Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress...The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned” Isaiah 9:1-2.*

### **The light of life**

*“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” John 8:12 (see also 1 John 1:5; 1 Timothy 6:16; 1 John 1:9).*

### **The out-ricing of the divine**

*“He is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light Being, the out-ricing or radiance of the divine]...” Hebrews 1:3 (Amplified Bible).*

### **The Giver of Great Joy**

*“You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder” Isaiah 9:3.*

Isaiah prophesied that the glorious King of kings will fill our hearts with joy. Peter describes it...

### **Inexpressible and glorious joy**

*“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy” 1 Peter 1:8 (see also John 15:10-12).*

### **The Great Deliverer**

*“For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor” Isaiah 9:4.*

Jesus sets us free from every oppressive work of the Enemy. By His work on the Cross and His Resurrection He totally defeated Satan for us and delivered us from the dominion of darkness, qualifying us for the Kingdom of God (Colossians 1:12-13; 1 Peter 2:9).

### **The Prince of Peace**

*“Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire...And he will be called...Prince of Peace” Isaiah 9:5-6 (see John 14:27).*

As citizens of His Kingdom, the Lord brings an end to all the battles within the heart of the believer which, in turn, brings peace in relationships (Romans 5:1; Colossians 3:13-15). At His return he will bring an end to all war (1 Corinthians 15:25; Revelation 17:14).

### **The All-Glorious Ruler**

So glorious is the reign of Jesus, Isaiah 9:6 declares that He is called...

**Wonderful** - Luke 13:10-17; Exodus 15:11

**Counselor** - Heb.4:15-16; John 15:26

**Mighty God** - Hebrews 1:8; John 1:1-3,14

**Everlasting Father** - John 1:10-12

### **His Eternal Reign**

His reign is established in peace, justice and righteousness forever (Isaiah 9:7).

# The King's Table

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## ***The Kingdom in Our Midst***

‘ The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed...For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst. Luke 17:20-21 (NASB) ’

### ***God's Kingdom on Earth***

The Pharisees challenged Jesus to tell them when the Kingdom of God would come. They were looking for the Kingdom to come at the end of the age, but Jesus' answer to them was that where the King is there is the Kingdom. Jesus is the King of the Kingdom. The King who would later come in glory, power and authority was the same King who was in their midst now.

### ***The Kingdom Within Us***

The Amplified Bible expresses Luke 17:21 this way...

*"...behold, the kingdom of God is within you [in your hearts] and among you [surrounding you]."*

In other words, the same glorious King who will be revealed at His Second Coming is how we, who believe in Him and have His Spirit dwelling within us, can know Him now...

### ***The Righteous Judge - Rev.19:11-15***

This is the believer's first revelation of the Lord. As a righteous Judge God found us guilty but His righteousness and love met at the Cross. Jesus took our judgment for us, bearing what we deserved in our place, and we were forgiven.

*"Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification" Romans 5:16 (Romans 6:23).*

### ***The King of Kings - Revelation 19:16***

The believer knows the Lord Jesus not only as Saviour but also as Lord - the King of the King-

dom to which we now belong. He rules and reigns in our lives.

*"...yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live" 1 Corinthians 8:6. (see also John 1:49-51; John 6:69).*

### ***The Raiser of the Dead - 1 Thess.4:16***

We have new life in Christ now. Our old life - what we were like before - has gone. We have received a whole new beginning (Romans 6:6-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

*"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus" Ephesians 2:4-6 (see Colossians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:19-21).*

### ***The Victor over the Enemy - Rev.17:14***

The Lord is the total victor over the Enemy in our lives now (1 John 3:8).

*"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" James 4:7 (read also Rev.19:11-15; Eph.1:18-23).*

### ***The Bridegroom - Rev.19:7; 21:1-2***

We love the Lord because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). Like a bride, we wait in earnest expectation for the coming of our Bridegroom.

*"I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him" 2 Cor.11:2 (see also Eph.5:25-27).*

# The King's Table

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## The Believer's Transfer

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.  
Colossians 1:13 (NASB)

### **Dominion of Darkness**

Because of the treason of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3), the whole world, including each one of us, lived under the power and dominion of Satan, the prince of darkness.

*"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath" Ephesians 2:1-3.*

Read in Romans 1:18-31 a description of the full outworking of life in the Dominion of Darkness.

### **Rescued!**

But, like a life-saver diving into the murky, churning water to save a drowning man, Jesus came into our world of darkness to rescue us.

*"...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power...he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him Acts 10:38 (see also 1 John 3:8).*

### **Only one way out - death**

Death is the only way out of the Dominion of Darkness. So, when Jesus died on the Cross, He represented us. He died our death for us.

*"If we have been united with him like this in his death...we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with" Romans 6:5-6.*

The moment we believed in what Jesus had done

for us, a miraculous transference took place - out of Satan's domain into the Kingdom of God! All records of our citizenship of the Satan's domain were wiped out (read Colossians 2:11-15).

### **Born into the Kingdom**

There are no passports, no visas, to get into the Kingdom of God. There is only one way - we have to be born there.

### **Only one way in - birth**

A miracle happens the moment we receive Christ as Saviour. We are born again.

*"... 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God'...unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God..." John 3:3-8 (also 1 Peter 1:3; John 1:12-13; 1 Peter 1:23; Galatians 3:26).*

### **Born of water - cleansed**

*"Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless" Ephesians 5:23-27 (NASB) (John 15:3).*

### **Born of the Spirit - a new creation**

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17.*

Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have been transferred into the Kingdom of God's dear Son. We are citizens of Heaven (Philippians 3:20). This is where we belong. We are in this world but we are not of it (John 17:16).

# The King's Table

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## The Kingdom of Light

‘ ...joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. Colossians 1:11-12 ’

In contrast to the dominion of darkness God's Kingdom is the Kingdom of Light! He has shone His light into our hearts...

*"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" 2 Cor.4:6.*

...and His glory shines upon all its new creation citizens (2 Corinthians 3:18; Numbers 6:5).

The nature and character of the Kingdom is summed up in Romans 14:17...

***"For the kingdom of God is...righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit"***

### ***The Gift of Righteousness***

*"For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith'" Romans 1:17.*

#### ***From God***

We cannot earn righteousness by anything we do. It is a free gift from God. It means we can stand in His presence without any sense of guilt or shame (see Jude 24).

#### ***Received by faith***

Believing and receiving personally means His gift of righteousness becomes ours as a reality.

#### ***From first to last***

God's free gift of righteousness is ours for our whole life. We can live in it and walk in it from beginning to end.

### ***Peace, the Guiding Factor***

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives..." John 14:27.*

As citizens of the Kingdom of God, under the government of the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6), peace is now our guiding factor in life.

*"And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ's] one body you were also called [to live]..." Col.3:15 (Amp.Bible).*

Peace is like the Geiger Counter for our lives. If the peace in our hearts goes then we must stop and seek the Lord as to why and wait for the peace to return (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

#### ***Peace with God***

Our lives are now at peace with God and peace now fills our hearts (Romans 5:1).

#### ***Peace in relationships***

Peace governs our relationships with others (Hebrews 12:14).

#### ***Peace in guidance***

When needing guidance as to which direction the Lord wants us to go, we follow the peace.

*"...And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" Phil.4:6-7.*

### ***Inexpressible Joy***

*"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy" 1 Pet.1:8.*

Continuous joy in the heart of the believer, no matter what the outward circumstances may be, is a key characteristic of the Kingdom of God (Romans 15:13; 2 Cor.8:2; James 1:2).

# The King's Table

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## Citizens of the Kingdom

‘ And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord... Colossians 1:10 ’

### People of the Way

Before the term “Christian” was given to the believers in Antioch (Acts 11:26) they called themselves the people of The Way (Acts 9:2; 19:9,23; 22:4; 24:14). They realized they were the fulfilment of the prophecy in Isaiah 35:8...

*“And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness...”*

The life-style of the Kingdom of God is totally different from that of the Dominion of Darkness. A whole change in customs, ideals and attitudes is the experience of a newborn citizen of the Kingdom. This comes about by the Holy Spirit ministering to us a whole new way of thinking. As Paul exhorts in Romans 12:2 (Amplified Bible)...

*“Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude]...”*

### Qualified as Citizens

Read through Colossians 1:7-14. Here is described the characteristics and qualities of the citizens of the Kingdom:

#### Knowing the will of God

God desires his new creation people to understand fully His eternal will and purpose - the plan He has had for us from the beginning of creation. This knowledge has a tremendous effect on the way we live down here on earth. The heroes of faith described in Hebrews chapter 11 are our great examples of this. All those listed had their eyes focused on “the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God” (verse 10). What that city represented and what they understood caused them all to live “in tents” like “aliens and strang-

ers on earth” (verses 13-16). They saw a city filled with redeemed people in the image of God from every tribe, nation and language (Revelation 7:9-10). This, too, is our central focus as citizens of the Kingdom of God. We are joined with Him in His plans and purposes for eternity.

*“...I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe...” Eph.1:17-19 (read to v.23)*

#### \* The believer's hope

The glory that is waiting for us in eternity is beyond comprehension but revealed to us by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

#### \* The Lord's inheritance

Not only is a great inheritance awaiting us in the eternal Kingdom (Matthew 25:31-34) but all those who love the Lord are *His* inheritance (Hebrews 12:2).

#### \* The power at work for us

The same great power that raised Jesus from the dead is now available in and through our lives (1 Cor.4:20; 1 Peter 1:5; Eph.6:10).

#### Living worthy of the call

*“I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” Eph.4:1-3 (1 Thess.2:11-12; Rom.12:10;13:8).*

Because of this great calling as citizens of the Kingdom love is now the central factor in our relationships with one another and unity a priority (John 17:20-23; John 13:34-35; 1 Peter 1:22).

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## At the King's Right Hand

‘ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Colossians 3:1

### **Seated with Christ**

*"But God--so rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us, even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings and trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ; [He gave us the very life of Christ Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him...]...And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together [giving us joint seating with Him] in the heavenly sphere... in Christ Jesus..." Ephesians 2:4-7 (Amp.Bible) (Heb.12:2).*

We were in Christ when he rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of the Father. Since this is true, Paul encourages us in Colossians 3:1 to seek those things that are at the right hand of God!

### **At His right hand - Righteousness**

*"...your right hand is filled with righteousness" Psalm 48:10 (see Romans 1:17; 5:17).*

### **At His right hand - Authority**

All authority is given to us in Christ...

*"...he raised him from the dead and gave him the place of supreme honour in Heaven [the right hand of God] - a place that is infinitely superior to any conceivable command, authority, power or control, and which carries with it a name far beyond any name that could ever be used in this world or the world to come. God has placed everything under the power of Christ and has set him up as head of everything for the Church. For the Church is his body, and in that body lives fully the*

*one who fills the whole wide universe" Eph.1:20-22 (Phillips) (see Matt.28:18-20).*

We have been given the right to use that wonderful, powerful name - the name of Christ. In other words, we represent him.

*"...Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name" John 15:16 (see also 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; John 14:13-14).*

### **At His right hand - Power**

*"Your right hand, O Lord, was majestic in power. Your right hand, O Lord shattered the enemy..." Exodus 15:6,12 (see also Psalm 118:15-16; 98:1; 89:13).*

We are God's ambassadors -- his right hand expressed in the world! (see 2 Cor.5:20; Acts 1:8).

### **At His right hand - Strength**

*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" Isa.41:10 (Heb.4:16).*

### **At His right hand - Joy**

*"...you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand" Psalm 16:11 (see also Ephesians 1:3).*

### **At His right hand - Guidance**

*"...even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast" Psalm 139:10.*

### **At His right hand - the Kingdom**

*"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world...' Matthew 25:34 (see also Psalm 44:3).*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## Culture of the Kingdom

“...he who is least among you all - he is the greatest.”  
Luke 9:48

Each nation has its particular cultural characteristics. However, the culture of the Kingdom is the common culture for all and unifies the world.

### ***A New Way of Living***

The life-style of the Kingdom is upside-down to the life-style of the world. Its basic principles are in direct opposition. It is filled with paradoxes.

#### ***In slavery is freedom***

*“But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness...” Romans 6:22 (read through v.16-22).*

The slavery found in the Kingdom of God is a slavery of choice because of love for the Master (read Exodus 21:5-6; Deuteronomy 15:16-17). It is a slavery that brings total freedom (John 8:32; 36) and fulfilment in life. In Romans 1:1 Paul calls himself a “bond-servant” or “love-slave” of Christ:

*“This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News” (New Living Translation).*

#### ***In servanthood is greatness***

The concept of greatness in the Kingdom of God is totally the opposite to that in the world.

*“Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, ‘The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves’” Luke 22:24-26 (see also Matthew 20:25-28; Luke 9:46-48; 1 Peter 5:2-4).*

God promises that those who follow Jesus will be honoured by the Father.

*“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me” John 12:26.*

#### ***In humility is exaltation***

*“Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” Matthew 18:4.*

The attitude of heart of those who belong to the Kingdom of God is totally the opposite to that in the dominion of darkness.

*“The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted” Matthew 23:11.*

#### ***In submission is authority***

*“Jesus ...was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him” ‘Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof...But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it” Luke 7:6 -8.*

The centurion recognized that it was the Lord’s submission to His Father that gave Him total authority.

*“I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does” John 5:19 (read through verses 17-30; 7:16-18; James 4:7.*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## ***All Barriers Broken***

“ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility. ”  
Ephesians 2:14

### ***Division since the Fall***

One of the major results from the sin of Adam and Eve was that division in relationships began (Genesis 3:11-13) and spread into every sphere of life in all the succeeding generations. A perfect example of this is the account of the Samaritan woman at the well.

### ***The Samaritan Woman***

*“Now he [Jesus] had to go through Samaria...Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Will you give me a drink?’...The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?’ [For Jews do not associate with Samaritans]” John 4:4-9 (read through to verse 42).*

When the disciples came back from buying food in the village they were shocked to see the Lord communicating with the Samaritan woman. This account reveals clearly the strong divisions the disciples saw and the totally different viewpoint of the Lord.

### ***The disciples view***

The Samaritans were heavily looked down upon, and scorned, by the Jews. They descended from the mixed population of people placed in the land by the Assyrians after they conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C. The Samaritans had their own political system; they worshipped God but believed His temple was the one on Mount Gerazim instead of Mount Zion in Jerusalem; it was culturally unheard of for a woman to be speaking to a man on her own; Because the woman was at the well alone and

at the wrong time, the disciples knew she was an immoral woman.

In the woman at the well the disciples saw...

- ***Political Division*** (verses 19-20)
- ***Religious Division*** (verse 19)
- ***Social Division*** (verses 9,27)
- ***Moral Division*** (verses 6-7)

### ***The Lord's view***

In contrast, Jesus saw a woman who was...

- ***Thirsty for eternal life*** (verse 10-15)
- ***Desiring to worship God*** (verses 19-24)
- ***Seeking love*** (verses 16-18)
- ***Hoping in the coming Messiah*** (v.25)

All the divisions that were part of the old world culture because of sin and self-centredness are completely dissolved in the new.

*“[In this new creation all distinctions vanish]; there is no room for and there can be neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, [nor difference between nations whether alien] barbarians or Scythians [who are the most savage of all], nor slave or free man; but Christ is all and in all – everything and everywhere, to all men, without distinction of person” Col.3:11 (Amp.Bible).*

### ***In Christ, gone are...***

- ***Cultural barriers*** (“Greek nor Jew”)
- ***Religious barriers*** (“circumcised nor uncircumcised”)
- ***Racial barriers*** (“barbarians or Scythians”)
- ***Class barriers*** (“slave or free”)
- ***Gender barriers*** (“male or female” - Galatians 3:26-28)

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## The Secrets of the Kingdom

“...The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you... Matthew 13:11”

### **The Parables Jesus Told**

The Lord Jesus taught the multitudes in parables because the “secrets of the kingdom of heaven” were revealed, not to everyone, but to those with a hungry heart to know God - to those who have “an ear to hear” (read Matthew 13:10-17; Mark 4:9-12; Luke 8:9-10; Matthew 5:6).

### **The Key Parable**

The Parable of the Sower is the key to understanding all the parables, which then opens up “the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven” (see Mark 4:13).

*“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear” Matthew 13:3-9 (see also Luke 8:1-15; Mark 4:1-20).*

### **The Sower**

The sower is the Lord Himself. Like a farmer, the Lord is looking for a harvest in the lives of men and women.

### **The Seed**

The seed is the Word of God (Luke 8:11).

### **The Ground**

The ground pictures the hearts of people. Read Matthew 13:19-23 (also Luke 8:12-15; Mark

4:14-20). Four kinds of hearts are revealed.

**The path** - the Word does not even penetrate the heart of this person but is immediately snatched away by Satan (Matthew 13:19).

**The rocky places** - this person receives the Word with great joy but it only lasts a short time because it is not rooted in his life. So when he faces any trouble or persecution he quickly falls away (Matt.13:20-21).

**The thorns** - the worries of life and deceitfulness of riches choke the Word from this person’s heart (Matt.13:22).

**The good soil** - “produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown” (Matt.13:23).

### **The Harvest**

Of the four kinds of people, only one has the right kind of heart in receiving the Word. Of these, some produce 30% more, some 60%, but God is looking for a 100% more harvest of His Word growing in revelation and reality in the hearts and lives of believers (see 1 Corinthians 3:6-8; John 4:36-38). This is His desire and purpose in this day in which we are living - prior to the Second Coming of Jesus. Paul writes of his ministry to the church in Colossians 1:24-25...

*“...I have become [the church’s] servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness...”*

The Lord Jesus was the Word become flesh (John 1:14). It is now God’s desire for all those who have come into His Kingdom that His Word become flesh in us (Colossians 2:9-10).

*“...I pray that you...may have power...to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” Ephesians 3:14-19.*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## The Kingdom First

“ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ”  
Matthew 6:33.

### Treasure in Heaven

The Lord exhorts those who love Him to seek His Kingdom first and foremost above all things...to seek the treasures of the Kingdom.

*"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" Luke 12:32-34 (see also Matthew 6:19-24).*

### Changed Priorities

In Matthew 6:25-34 the Lord Jesus redirects our attention from what is considered the most essentials of this world - food and clothing - to the priority of the things of His Kingdom. With it He gives this promise...

*"...seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well".*

Read 1 Timothy 6:3-16. Some who claimed the name of "Christian" in New Testament times were teaching that godliness was a means to financial gain. So the apostle, Paul, writes of the different priorities of the Kingdom...

*"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some*

*people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs" (verses 6-10).*

### Flee one...pursue the other

*"But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith..." (verses 11-12)*

### The Good Confession

*"Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ..." (vs 12-14).*

What was Timothy's "good confession" before many witnesses? It was the same as the "good confession" the Lord Jesus made when being interrogated by Pontius Pilate...

*"My kingdom is not of this world..." John 18:36.*

### Zeal for the Kingdom

The absolute priority of the Kingdom of God to those of us who desire its treasures with all our hearts is vividly described in the Amplified Bible's version of Matthew 11:12...

*"...the kingdom of heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize--a share in the heavenly kingdom is sought with most ardent zeal and intense exertion]" Matt.11:12 (Amp.Bible).*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## The Kingdom Rejoices

“...I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. Luke 15:10”

Read Luke chapter 15. In answer to the criticism of the religious Pharisees and teachers of the law, Jesus told them three parables (verse 1).

### **The Lost Sheep**

Luke 15:1-7. All of Heaven rejoices when one person repents and is born again into the Kingdom of God. Jesus represented us as the Lamb of God (John 1:29,36; Isa.53:6-11; Rev.5:6; 1 Cor.5:7).

### **The Lost Coin**

Luke 15:8-10. It was customary for a woman to receive ten silver coins as a wedding gift. They were like the wedding ring of today so held great value in her heart. Like that woman, Heaven rejoices over one person restored to relationship with God. Each coin was worth the equivalent of a day's wage (Matt.20:2), picturing the preciousness to the Lord of every individual.

### **The Lost Sons**

Luke 15:11-31. This parable would hit hard at these religious leaders and how they had failed to fulfil the purpose of their leadership.

#### **The younger son**

They would have been shocked at the Lord's account of the younger son who, receiving his inheritance (vs.11-12), deserted his family and his covenantal heritage, wasted it living a sinful life and finally ended up with pigs - the most unclean of animals to the Jew (vs.13-16; Lev.11:2-8; Deut.14:8). They would have also been shocked that, after he had "joined himself" to a Gentile nation, the father was watching for him to return and welcomed him home (vs.20-24).

#### **The older son**

The older son also received his inheritance at the same time (verses 11-12). According to the culture of the Old Testament, the firstborn had...

**Special Position** – he represented the father's *authority* to the family (his signet ring).

**Special Inheritance** – he received a *double-portion* of the inheritance (Deut.21:15-17).

**Special Responsibility** – He received a double-portion because he held *responsibility* for the the family if any should be in need. But the older son did not use his inheritance or take his position. Instead, he was working hard to try to gain his father's approval so that he could *earn* his inheritance and, instead of going after his brother to bring him home, was furious when his sinful, repentant brother returned and was received with great celebration (vs.22-32).

Jesus was likening those religious leaders to the older son. They had failed in all three areas of being "firstborn" ones. They had not used their "inheritance" (Rom.9:2-5) to gather in the "lost".

### **Jesus - the Firstborn**

In His special Heavenly status, the Lord Jesus is the *Firstborn of all creation* (Col.1:15; Heb.1:2-4). He did not fail in any of the three areas of being Firstborn. He took his responsibility and came down to the depth of our "pigsty". He died for us and became the *Firstborn from among the dead* (Col.1:18), raising us up to newness of life (Rom.6:4-5; Eph.1:4-6) and, seating us together with Him at the righthand of the Father, became the *Firstborn among many brothers* (Rom.8:29; Heb.2:9-12; Rom.8:17). As His fellow-heirs he has made us "firstborn ones" (Heb.12:22-23). Unlike those religious leaders, who were full of condemnation, legalism, "religiosity", self-interest and self-exaltation, we now join Heaven in rejoicing as we see the "lost" brought back to the Father.

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## The Ever-Expanding Kingdom

“ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:14 ”

### Parable of Mustard Seed

Read Matthew 13:31-32 (Luke 13:18-19; Mark 4:30-32). The “man” (Jesus) plants a mustard seed in his “field” (the world). It begins as the smallest, most insignificant looking seed, but grows to the largest plant - a tree which becomes a haven for the birds of the air - a shelter from the storms, the scorching sun and their enemies. This is the ministry of all those in the Kingdom of God.

*“See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice. Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land. Then the eyes of those who see will no longer be closed, and the ears of those who hear will listen” Isaiah 32:1-3 (read to verse 8; Isaiah 4:6; 25:4; 58:7).*

- **A King will reign in righteousness** - speaking of the Lord Jesus.
- **Rulers will rule with justice** - under the King, those who belong to the Kingdom take their authority in the Spirit over the Enemy at work in people’s lives - the situations and circumstances they face.
- **Each man will be like a shelter** - every Christian ministering the love of God to the needy around us. We are the “shadow” of the “great rock”- the Lord Jesus (1 Corinthians 10:3-4; Psalm 62:2-7).

### Parable of Yeast

Read Matthew 13:33; Luke 13:20-21.

When heated, yeast influences the whole lump of dough, spreading throughout and causing it to swell and expand. So it is with those who

belong to the Kingdom of God. Under the “fire” of the Spirit of God, they influence the whole community, spreading the “good news of the Kingdom” (2 Corinthians 5:18-20) and having such impact they “turn the world upside down” (Acts 17:6).

### Parable of the Net

Read Matthew 13:47-48. The call to be a “fisher of men” (Matt.4:19) is the call to every believer. As the net of the Gospel message is cast upon the waters of human lives (Isa.17:12) it “catches” all kinds of people...those with a sincere repentant heart whose desire is to know the Lord and worship and glorify Him, and those with their own agenda, wanting only the blessing they can get for this life now (John 2:23-25;6:5-15;25-26).

### Parable of the Tares

Read Matt.13:24-41. The tares or weeds (probably the poisonous *darnel*), planted by the enemy, look identical to the wheat, but at full growth the ears of the tares are light so they remain upright whereas the ears of the wheat are so heavy they bend down - picturing the heart of the believer to the Lord. When the time of harvest comes the difference is clear. So it will be at the end of the age. When the Lord returns he will “harvest” his true believers (Matt.3:12).

*“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other” Matthew 24:30-32 (see also Matthew 25:31-46).*

# The King's Table

*"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4*

## **3 Absolutes of the Kingdom**

‘ God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? Numbers 23:19 ’

E. Stanley Jones makes very clear the three absolutes that are essential as a foundation for the Kingdom of God upon the earth. These are - a relationship with the unchanging Person; we belong to the unshakeable Kingdom of God; and we are led by the enduring Word of God.

### ***The Unchanging Person***

In our society most people have been through many experiences of broken relationships, including marriages, friendships, within families and the workplace. These broken relationships have often caused a build up of hurts, resentments, bitterness, mistrust and unforgiveness. Some people come to the point where they feel they can never trust a relationship again because they don't want to experience further wounding. The answer to this great need is an eternal relationship with Jesus, the Son of God, who is always the same and never changes. He is the reliable one and loves each one of us just as we are. The Bible declares of Him...

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" Hebrews 13:8 (James 1:17).*

Also, His promise to us is...

*"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" Hebrews 13:5.*

Hebrews 7:25 also says...

*"...he always lives to intercede for them."*

Having a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ gives us a new foundation for all the relationships that will follow. We can afford to trust again and even if people or circumstances let us down, we do not disintegrate because we have an absolute relationship with the unchanging Person - Jesus.

### ***The Unshakeable Kingdom***

We live in a world of great uncertainty and many people feel insecure in relation to the future. But in the midst of these uncertainties we can know that we belong to the unshakeable Kingdom of God. The Lord says in His Word...

*"At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, 'Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.' The words 'once more' indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire'" Hebrews 12:26-29 (Lamentations 5:19; Daniel 4:34).*

We, who belong to the Kingdom of God, never need to be afraid of any kind of catastrophe in our society or around the world (Hebrews 13:6; Psalm 125:1).

### ***The Enduring Word of God***

*"But the word of the Lord endures forever..." 1 Peter 1:25 (Matthew 24:35).*

Often we cannot put our faith in the word of men but, for us who believe, we have a strong foundation and believe implicitly, stand on and hold fast to, the promises of God in the Bible.

*"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock" Matt.27:24-25 (Isa.55:11).*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## A Kingdom of Priests

“ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth. ”  
Revelation 5:10

### **Priesthood of all Believers**

The priesthood is no longer a specialized company, separate from the rest of the believers, but every citizen in the Kingdom of God has the ministry of a priest. We have been given the “*keys of the Kingdom*” (Matt.16:19) to bring people through the “door” (John 10:7).

*“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” 1 Peter 2:9.*

### **Ministry of a Priest**

A priest ministers as a representative...

#### **To the Lord...on behalf of the people**

In 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Paul emphasises the importance of the ministry of prayer in six different expressions...

*“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (see Eph.6:18-20).*

#### **Requests, supplication**

The prayer of asking - Mark 11:24; John 16:24.

#### **Deprecation**

The Greek word translated “requests” also has another meaning - “to speak disapproval of” (read the account of Hezekiah’s prayer in 2 Kings 18:17-19:37).

### **Prayers**

This Greek word literally means “the pouring out of the heart” (read the account of Hannah’s prayer in 1 Samuel chapter 1).

### **Intercession**

- **Bearing the burden of the Lord**  
Luke 19:41-42; Matt.23:37-38; John 11:35.
- **Identification with others**  
Galatians 6:2.
- **Travail - Spiritual labour to bring to birth**  
Galatians 4:19.
- **Spiritual warfare**  
Mark 3:14-15; 6:12-13; Luke 9:1; 10:17.

### **Thanksgiving**

Lifting our hearts in praise and thanksgiving is the expression of faith in the Lord who promises to answer prayer (Matt.21:22; Luke 11:10).

#### **To the people...on behalf of the Lord**

##### **His love**

*“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” John 13:35*

##### **His Word**

*“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation” Mark 16:15 (John 6:63).*

##### **His power**

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth” Acts 1:8 (1 Thess.1:5; 1 Cor.2:4; 12:4-11; Rom.12:6-8).*

##### **Declaring His praises**

There is no greater impact than our personal testimony of what God has done for us.

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## The Keys of the Kingdom

‘ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven... Matthew 16:19 ’

Read through verses 13-20 of Matthew 16. Here, in the context of the Lord's promise to give the Keys of the Kingdom (verse 19), two things are revealed...

- **Those who receive the Keys.**
- **The reason for their use.**

### Revelation of Who Jesus Is

"Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven'" (verses 15-17).

Those who receive the Keys are those who have had a personal revelation of who Jesus is. He is...

#### The Christ

The "anointed one" sent by the Father to bring salvation to a lost world (Luke 4:17-19; 3:22).

#### The Son of God

The representative of the Father, revealing His glory to the world (Col.1:15-18; Heb.1:1-4).

#### The Rock

So significant was the revelation given to Simon Peter that the Lord changed his name to Peter (the rock) and declared that the revelation of who He is that Peter received (and all the other apostles and prophets would have - Ephesians 2:20) would be the foundational "rock" upon which His church would be built (verse 18). Read also Romans 9:33; Genesis 49:24; 2 Samuel 22:2-3; 1 Cor.10:3-4). The revelation of the Lord Jesus is the foundation of all God is doing on the earth. As the Rock, the Lord impacts two areas...

#### The Church

"...on this rock I will build my church" (v.18)

#### Satan's domain

"...and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (verse 18).

Knowing who Jesus is has a tremendous effect, not only our own lives, but on our involvement with the purposes of God on earth. In our hands now are the Keys of the Kingdom! The power to lock and to open - to bind and to loose!

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven" (verse 19. NASB).

### The Keys

With the empowering of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:8), two major keys are in the hands of believers to "bind" the Enemy's work in people's lives and to "loose" them into the freedom of the Kingdom of God.

**His Name** (Mark 16:17-18; John 16:24).

**His Word** (Isaiah 55:11).

### Bound in Heaven

Through the finished work of Jesus all Satan's work has been bound!

- **Sin in people's lives** (1 John 3:8).
- **Curses** (Gal.3:13; Num.22:12; Eph.1:3).
- **Bondage of physical needs** (Luke 11:16).
- **Emotional bondages** (Ps.147:3; Is.58:6).

### Loosed in Heaven

- **Freed from the law of sin and death** (Rom.8:2; Hebrews 9:15).
- **Freed from our "old self"** (Romans 6:6)
- **Freed to serve God in the new way of the Spirit** (Romans 7:4-6; 2 Cor.3:3-6)

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## Look! The King is Coming!

“ The Spirit and the bride say ‘Come!’...He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Revelation 22:17,20. ”

### Be Ready!

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 declares the Lord Jesus will come as a “thief in the night” to the world - but not like that to His believers! In several of His parables concerning the Kingdom of God, the Lord warned of the importance of being ready for His return:

- **The 5 wise and 5 foolish virgins** (Matthew 25:1-13) - be continually filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
- **The Talents** (Matthew 25:15-25) - use what God has given you.
- **The Wedding Banquet** - the open invitation to all - go and gather them in - many are invited, but few are chosen (Matthew 22:1-14).

### Know the Signs!

Read Luke 21:5-36; Matthew 24. When Jesus told his disciples that the temple was going to be destroyed, they asked him...

*"...when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" Matthew 24:3 (Luke 21:7).*

The disciples assumed the temple's destruction, His coming again and the end of the age, would happen at the same time. But in Luke 21:5-24, the Lord summarizes the events of history from the time of the destruction of the temple (AD70) up to the time of His return and describes what it will be like at the time of the end...

### What will happen

*"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the*

*heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" vs 25-27*

### What to do

In the light of the catastrophic events that will take place, Jesus gives definite instructions to us, His believers, as to what we should do...

*"When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" verse 28.*

- **Stand up** - a change of position, no longer sleeping or relaxing, but ready for action.
- **Lift up your heads** - a change of focus, seeing beyond the outward circumstances, with a joyous expectation of His coming.

### When will it be?

*"He told them this parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened...'"* verses 29-32.

The generation alive at the time the signs begin to take place will see the fulfilment of it all and Jesus come in great power and glory! (Revelation 19, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; 2:8).

### The Prepared Bride

*"Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear' (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints)" Rev.19:7-8 (v.9;21:9-11).*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## ***The Eternal Kingdom***

“ Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. Matthew 25:34 ”

Glimpses are given us in the Word of God of the glory of the Kingdom of Heaven. As believers in Christ, this is our inheritance! For all eternity we will enjoy the wonders of His Presence.

### ***The Glory of the King***

*“Above the expanse...was what looked like a throne of sapphire, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man. I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him. Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord...” Ezekiel 1:26-28 (see also Revelation 1:12-16).*

### ***The Worship of the King***

*“Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: ‘Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!...’” Revelation 19:6-7 (read through to verse 16).*

### ***Heaven & earth praise together***

*“Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power for ever and ever!’ The four living creatures said, ‘Amen,’ and the elders fell down and worshipped” Revelation 5:13-14 (read through verses 8-14; John 4:23-24).*

### ***The Will of the King***

In the Kingdom of Heaven, all the heavenly host and its citizens delight to fulfill the will of the King (Psalm 40:8; Heb. 10:7; Psalm 103:20)

### ***On Earth as in Heaven***

The Lord taught his disciples to pray that what was in Heaven would come on earth - that the glory of His Kingdom, the worship expressed in Heaven, and the full obedience to His will, might be seen and experienced on earth! This is the call upon the Church!

### ***The Wonder of His Love***

In light of what is in Heaven, the wonder of what the Lord has done for us and called us to be is gloriously overwhelming (1 John 3:1-3; Jude 24-25):

### ***In His image***

*Romans 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:11-13.*

### ***Seated at His right hand***

*Ephesians 2:6-7.*

### ***Joined with Him as one***

*John 17:20-21, 23.*

### ***Bearers of His glory***

*John 17:22.*

### ***The Advancing Kingdom***

*“...so that the world may believe that you have sent me” John 17:21.*

As the Church advances across the world with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, reconciling people to God and gathering souls into the Kingdom, so His Kingdom in all its glory will come on earth as it is in Heaven.

# Making the Truth Mine

Write out in full the scripture from this lesson which means the most to you. We encourage you to commit the verse to memory.


Write out one statement from the study which you feel is most significant for your life.


Write in your own words how you believe you should respond to the truth of this study. Are there any decisions you should make?


## **You can make a difference!**

For this study to have its full effect in your life, we encourage you to:

- \* Read and digest the study - meditate on the Word of God.
- \* Put into action what you have learnt (James 1:22).
- \* Share the Word of God with others.

Your places of ministry have been pre-arranged by God: your home, the street you live on, your place of work and your church.

“I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free” Psalm 119:32

# Food for Thought

## **Sending God's Word to the Ends of the Earth**

The Word of God made available in a
clear, simple layout for personal study and
for use in sharing with others.

### ***The King's Table is designed to help...***

- ***Every believer for personal study***
- ***Parents to teach their children***
- ***Leaders of home groups***
- ***Ministers of congregations***
- ***Christian schools and home schooling***
- ***Missionary projects to other nations***

Our Project 21 series for leaders has been widely received and multiplied throughout Asia and the Pacific. The reports from many places of growth and blessing encourage us greatly in the spreading of the life-giving Word of God. It is something that for us never loses its excitement.

The King's Table is an extension of the Project 21 teaching program which has many series of 21 lessons on different subjects. Our prayer is that this series might be a great blessing to you.

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