

## Term 1 - Understanding the Journey

### Lesson 10

## The Kingdom of Heaven

Most of the world thinks that Heaven is a place that we go to when we die if we have lived a good life. They believe it is an earned reward and hope that they and their loved ones have done enough to make it into heaven. We have concepts in our minds of what heaven is like but over all believe it is a great mystery that we know very little about and approach with a fair amount of uncertainty but a great amount of hope. The reality for mankind is that the Word of God (Holy Bible) reveals so much to us about the kingdom of heaven that we do not have to live this life without understanding. The most important thing revealed to us is that heaven is God's plan for our lives and He has made heaven available to everyone, but it is choice that we make we make now and for all eternity.. **John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

### **The Heavenly Father Brings the Kingdom to Earth through Jesus**

Jesus is the beginning and the end of our understanding of the Kingdom of Heaven. Our heavenly Father sent Jesus to earth so that we could understand and access the Kingdom of Heaven now and in the life to come. Through Jesus, we learn that there is a portion of the kingdom that is for our life on earth. There is also a portion of the kingdom prepared and reserved for us when we have finished with life on this earth. **Mark 1:14-15** *"Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel".* **Matthew 4:17** *"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* **Luke 10:8-9** *"And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you: And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you."* **Luke 4:16-21** *"And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."* These scriptures show us that we can obtain a portion of the Kingdom of God now.

### **The Kingdom Revealed to Us by His Spirit**

The Kingdom of God is spiritual. It is only revealed and obtained in a manner that only God can provide. **John 3:5-8** *"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."*

**1 Corinthians 2:9-11** *“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.”* When we are born again of His Spirit, it is the beginning of the opening our understanding and entrance into the Kingdom of God. For through being born again we are to become the sons and daughters of God. **John 1:12-13** *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”* **Romans 8:14** *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”*

### **The Riches of the Family of God by Inheritance**

When we become part of the family of God, an inheritance of God (the Kingdom of God) is opened unto us. We receive part of the inheritance now in this life. The other part of the inheritance comes when we leave this life. We do not earn either part of our inheritance. It is given freely to us by the Father. The Kingdom of God is both a place and a new identity. It is full of God’s riches, power, glory, and love. It is free from the bondage, challenges and holds of this life – even death itself! In the Kingdom of God, we are restored with the Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ, now and forever. The Kingdom of God is victory over death, hell and sin through the blood of Jesus Christ. The Kingdom of God is power and authority in the name of Jesus in this life. The Kingdom of God is His Spirit living within us so that we may complete the journey of this life and enter the life to come. In the Kingdom of God, we receive our hope, yet we continue to hope for the things that He has promised that are still to come.

**Romans 8:16-17** *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”* **Ephesians 1:9-14** *“Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”* There is indeed an inheritance of a place (The Kingdom of Heaven) that awaits us. There is also an inheritance that we can receive now (The Kingdom of God) if we desire it.

### **The Kingdom That We Receive Now**

**Luke 22:29** *“And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;”* **Luke 17:20-21** *“And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.”*

**2 Corinthians 5:17** *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

**John 14:23** “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” **Luke 3:16** “John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:” **Acts 1:8** “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” **Romans 8:11** “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” **John 14:12** “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” **John 14:27** “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” **Matthew 5:13** “Ye are the salt of the earth.” **Matthew 5:14** “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.” **Ephesians 2:4-6** “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:”

There is so much in His Word about the Kingdom of God that is for our inheritance now. Read about the Fruit of His Spirit (Gal 5); the Gifts of His Spirit (1Cor12); the Ministries of His Spirit (Eph 4) and the Weapons of warfare. These are the fulfilment of the words Jesus spoke when He said the Kingdom of God is at hand. **1 Corinthians 15:54-55** “So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

### **The Kingdom Yet to Come**

There is an even greater inheritance reserved for us by our Heavenly Father when our life on this earth is over. This life was never intended to be our complete life. The earth was never intended to be our final home. Our Heavenly Father has reserved a life and a place where the battle is finished; all the enemies of our faith are subdued; and where we shall live in the perfect glory of the Father and His Son Jesus Christ for all eternity. This is the completion of our hope and the earnest of our inheritance. **John 14:1-3** “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” **1 Peter 1:3-4** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,” **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

**Revelation 21:1-7** *“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”* The Kingdom of God is the most beautiful hope for all mankind.

### **Kingdom of God by is by Choice**

God made us different than all the rest of creation. He gave us free will to choose whatever path of life that we wish to follow. His heart’s desire and plan is for us to choose to follow Him. This must also be our heart’s desire. His Kingdom is available to all who choose Him. **Revelation 3:20-21** *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”* Mankind cannot earn the Kingdom of Heaven. We must obtain it by the way ordained by the Heavenly Father. It is His Kingdom to give to us, not man’s kingdom to earn. Not all roads lead to heaven. There is a road or way appointed unto us by God whereby we obtain the kingdom of Heaven.

Man’s way leads to destruction. **Proverbs 16:25** *“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”* God’s way leads to everlasting life. **John 14:3-6** *“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* **Matthew 7:13-14** *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”* **John 3:17** *“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”* **John 10:27-30** *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand. I and my Father are one.”* The heart of our Heavenly Father is not to deny us of our inheritance of the Kingdom of God. Instead, He reveals it to us plainly by His Spirit. He gives us the ability to obtain the kingdom as our rightful inheritance. He does this with great patience and longsuffering while we now live on the earth. We are in a time of the grace of God so that we might return to Him and obtain our inheritance of the Kingdom of God. Grace time will not last forever.

**2 Peter 3:9-14** *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless”.*

Notes:

**DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

SCRIPTURES	QUESTIONS
<p><b>Matthew 5:1-12</b>  <i>“And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who does Jesus say shall obtain the Kingdom?</li> <li>2. How does Jesus tell us to handle rejection and evil of others against us? Why?</li> </ol> <p>Answers:</p>
<p><b>Ephesians 2:1-6</b>  <i>“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:”</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Who has the Kingdom of God come to?</li> <li>4. How did the kingdom come to them?</li> <li>5. What is the result?</li> </ol> <p>Answers:</p>

<p><b>Ephesians 2:11-13</b> “Wherefore remember, that ye <i>being</i> in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”</p>	<p>6. What was our state before the Kingdom of God came unto us? 7. What is our state after the Kingdom of God has come unto us? 8. What brought about the change?</p> <p>Answers:</p>
<p><b>Ephesians 2:19-22</b> “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”</p>	<p>9. Who were we before Jesus came unto us? 10. Who are we now in the Kingdom of God? 11. What is our foundation in the Kingdom? 12. For what purpose are we changed?</p> <p>Answers:</p>

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**Matthew 7:21-27**

*“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”*

- 13. What is the warning of Jesus given to us in these scriptures?
- 14. Who shall enter into the Kingdom?
- 15. What is the will of the Father?
- 16. What distinguishes a wise man from a foolish man?

Answers:

Notes: