

The Kingdom of God

Dynamics of Kingdom Rule &
Decree of Sons of God as Kings



Extracts of Study Notes by
Shaun Blignaut

Table of Contents

Chapter One	The Kingdom of God	Page 3
Chapter Two	Our King-Priest Identity	Page 27
Chapter Three	How To Govern For God	Page 31
Chapter Four	Governmental Decree	Page 36
Scriptures for Meditation and Study		Page 42
Personal Notes		Page 43
About Shaun Blignaut		Page 47

Note:

The content of this manual contains extracts of study notes by Shaun Blignaut on the theme of 'The Kingdom of God'. The material is not a comprehensive coverage of this theme, but the aspects reflected herein were carefully selected to be taught at a Prophetic Conference in Durban in March 2017. Audios of these teachings are available from www.randolphbarnwell.com.

Copyright: ©2017 Shaun Blignaut. Reproduction of this material in any form is permissible, provided that no monetary profit is gained. Permission to use this material beyond this guideline must be sought in writing from the author via this email: shaunblignaut34gmail.com

The Kingdom of God

1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

LUKE 17:21: “THE KINGDOM IS NOT HERE, OR THERE, BUT WITHIN YOU!”

‘The Kingdom of God’ formed the central theme of Jesus’ preaching.

“Kingdom of God” = OWNERSHIP

“Kingdom of Heaven” = LOCATION

The Jews subscribed to the practice of circumlocution in which they would *substitute another word for the divine name. So they substituted “heaven” for “God”*.

The two terms are completely interchangeable:

Compare Matt. 19:23 with verse 24

Verse 23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.”

Verse 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the KINGDOM OF GOD”

Jn. 18:36-37 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now my kingdom is not from here. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.”

The problem with the world and much of the “church-world” is:

- Failing to perceive that an invisible kingdom exists right now!
- Refusing to consider the fact that an invisible world undergirds, surrounds and interpenetrates the visible world in which we live.
- Failing to understand that this invisible kingdom is:
 - * Unrestricted
 - * Unlimited
 - * Infinite

- Kingdom is not of this physical, temporary, time-related system – but it is of another order and arrangement.
- We must bring that secret, eternal kingdom into visible manifestation through its principles.

2 Cor. 4:17-18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but **what is unseen**. For what is seen, is temporary, but what is **unseen is eternal**.

Ps. 145:13 Thy Kingdom (**Rule, dominion, empire, sovereign power**) is an everlasting (**eternal**) kingdom, and Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

The Kingdom of God spans over all dimensions and realms of time:

- The pre-existent past
- The now present
- The distant future ... thus endless times!

Daniel 4:3 His Kingdom is an **eternal kingdom**; His dominion (**Rule or power**) endures **from generation to generation**.

Ps.103:19 The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His **Kingdom rules over all**.

2. KINGDOM PRIORITY

Matt. 6:33 **Seek first His Kingdom & His Righteousness**, and all these things shall be given to you as well.

Priority – What you consider to be of highest value!

Priority - The most important thing upon which you continually focus!

What is God's Priority according to Matt. 6:33?

(1) Seeking the Kingdom

(2) Seeking All His Righteousness

Jesus encapsulated ALL of life to these two pursuits! Jesus re-focuses human priority to the divine priority, viz. **kingdom + righteousness!**

Jesus says in Matt. 6:25,31: Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than

clothing? “Therefore **DO NOT WORRY**, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

‘Worry’ implies the following:

- To meditate on the problem
- To be unduly anxious
- To be consumed with anxiety

When you worry, you direct your faith towards “things” you pursue. We do not walk by sight (the physical realities of our lives) but by faith (the evidence of things unseen).

2 Cor.4:18 While we do not look at the things which are seen (tangible, temporary, material), but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

“For most people, life is about the pursuit of things! They have a misdirected priority! They seek after things – satisfying their material needs...the pursuit of money, power, possessions and pleasure!” (Myles Munroe)

**There must be the movement from a humanistic, self-indulgent, self-seeking world-view to the embrace of God’s primary focal point, God’s world-view and God’s philosophy:-
SEEK FIRST the KINGDOM and HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

To SEEK is to ... Pursue, study, a desire to know, searching to understand, diligent dedication to something!

First = ‘Proton’ (GRK) , which means ...

- In the order of things, it’s the primary preoccupation.
- First in time, rank, order and place.

So, also, we must have a pre-occupation with the kingdom!

The Kingdom of Heaven shaped Christ’s entire:

- (1) **Worldview** (perspective on how you see life and experiences it)
- (2) **Philosophy** (a person’s view of life).
- (3) **His convictions** (strong beliefs)
- (4) **His self-worth, identity, purpose, confidence and goals, ALL hinged upon the Kingdom of heaven!**

Jesus teaches us to re-focus all our efforts upon two things:

- * His Kingdom
- * Righteousness

The logical consequence of prioritising the ‘kingdom’ and ‘righteousness’ is that THINGS GET ADDED!



Note: The Kingdom is being under the administration of Heaven - Heaven rules!

This means, God as our King becomes our reference point for everything!

- His will becomes my will
- His ways becomes our ways
- His culture becomes our culture
- His interests becomes our interests

3. KINGDOM DEFINED

“Kingdom” is the Greek word basileia, which means:

- Kings + domain, or the realm over which a king rules
- Royal dominion
- Realm of Rule
- The exercise of dominion
- The basis for the exercise of power, or simply stated – God’s government!
- It also refers to the preference of God in all things

The kingdom is the reign of God in Christ within the hearts of men!

So, the territory over which King Jesus seeks to rule, is the human heart! The rule of God within the hearts of men! The territory within the heart is righteousness which was imputed through the new birth. Righteousness within the hearts of redeemed men and women is the “territory” over which Christ seeks to rule and express His kingship!

Note:

When we seek first the Kingdom of God, we are seeking Christ’s INFLUENCE to be extended over the entire “territory” of our private life, our business life, our marriage life, our career life, our sex life, our relationships, and ANY other dimensions of life!

According to **Lk.17:21**, the Kingdom is not here, or there, but WITHIN you!

- The rule of God within the hearts of men!
- Righteousness within the heart is the territory of His Kingship.
- That is, "Where do you get the authority with which to rule from, where does it come from?"
- The Kingdom of God is based upon the authority of God. "Kingdom of Heaven" is not a description of the basis for power and rule but it refers to the origin of the Kingdom!
- Where did it come from?

Kingdom of Heaven (Origin) (Sam Soleyn)

- This speaks of this authority to rule coming from heaven.
- **Jn.18:36** Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."
- So, the Kingdom is on earth, in the hearts of men, but its origin is from Heaven.

Kingdom of God (Ownership, or Source) (Sam Soleyn)

- So, the authority comes from Heaven and when you speak of the Kingdom of God, you speak about the very source from which the authority to govern comes - from God Himself!
- So, whoever is in the Kingdom of God lives in an earthly existence within a context that is from Heaven.
- Whoever lives in the Kingdom of God, lives by the authority that comes from God.
- There is no other basis of authority but God!
- Whoever lives in the Kingdom of God, lives by the authority of God.
- Whoever is in the Kingdom of Heaven, lives in the reality of the eternal while he lives in time.

4. REPENTANCE, THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE FOR KINGDOM ENTRANCE

Matt. 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "**Repent, for the Kingdom of God is near.**"

- Kingdom entrance is conditioned upon repentance!

When the Kingdom comes near, our response should be to repent! So, the coming of the kingdom demands repentance!

The Question is: Repent of what? For natural Israel it was to think differently, or to change the mind regarding the rejection of their king and His kingdom offer!

Joel 2:12 (AMP) Therefore also now, says the Lord, **turn and keep on coming to Me with all your heart**, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning [until every hindrance is removed and the broken fellowship is restored].

Matt. 3:2 “. . . Repent (think differently; change your mind, regretting your sins and changing your conduct), for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Acts 2:38 Repent (change your views and purpose to accept the will of God in your inner selves instead of rejecting it) and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of and release from your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 3:19 So repent (change your mind and purpose); turn around and return [to God], that your sins may be erased (blotted out, wiped clean), that times of refreshing (of recovering from the effects of heat, of reviving with fresh air) may come from the presence of the Lord.

Paul explains the difference between biblical repentance and just being sorry about getting caught doing wrong:

2 Cor.7:10 For godly grief and the pain God is permitted to direct, produce a repentance that leads and contributes to salvation and deliverance from evil, and it never brings regret; but worldly grief (the hopeless sorrow that is characteristic of the pagan world) is deadly [breeding and ending in death]

- If we have truly repented, our lives should reflect the change of thinking and doing.
- True repentance is not just a change of thought or mind that leads to a change in behaviour, but A **CHANGE IN YOUR WHOLE CONCEPTUAL PROCESS!**
- TRUE REPENTANCE HAS TO DO WITH THE REPLACEMENT OF A MIND - YOUR MIND IS REPLACED WITH THE MIND OF CHRIST! (Gal. 2:20)

5. THE NEARNESS OF THE KINGDOM

"The Kingdom is near" means:

It does not speak of proximity, or location, but elevation!

Hebrew = hbrg / brg (karav) and it means:

- "Come up to and to be with"
- "To be where something or someone else is"

"Come up to":

- Is to upgrade
- To leave a former position
- To elevate yourself into a new position
- It speaks of association with
- It speaks of close in relation to
- It speaks of Elevation
- It speaks of leaving behind what you are and have
- It is to come to a different orientation
- It is to come into agreement with the king

"Be with":

- To associate with
- To stand as He stands

It asks for:

- Effort
- Sacrifice of the familiar

6. WHO PREACHED THE KINGDOM?

a) JESUS PREACHED THE KINGDOM

Matt. 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Matt. 4:23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

Luke 4:43 And He said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also; for therefore am I sent.

Luke 8:1 And it came to pass afterward, that He went throughout every city and village, **preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God:** and the twelve were with Him.

Matt. 9:35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, **teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.**

Mark 1:14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.**

IN PREACHING THE KINGDOM, JESUS CAME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST

Luke 9:10 (AMP) **For the Son Man came to seek and to save THAT which was lost"**

- Jesus came to restore back to man that which was lost ...his sonship!
- **What was lost?** - Man's rulership, authority, dominion and not just his salvation.

b) JOHN THE BAPTIST PREACHED THE KINGDOM

Matt. 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of Heaven **suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.**

- The Kingdom advances forcefully
- You must be forceful in mind and spirit to advance the Kingdom

Luke 16:16 **The Law and the prophets were proclaimed until John - since that time, the Good news of the Kingdom of God is being preached and everyone is forcing his way into it.**

- John is the point of transition.
- John is the declarer of an entirely new way of life – the Kingdom.

c) JESUS COMMANDED THE 12 APOSTLES TO PREACH THE KINGDOM

Matt. 10:7 And as you go, preach, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is at hand**

Luke 9:2 And He sent them to **preach the kingdom of God,** and to heal the sick.

d) JESUS TOLD WOULD-BE FOLLOWERS TO PREACH THE KINGDOM

Luke 9:60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: **but go and preach the kingdom of God.**

e) PHILLIP THE EVANGELIST TAUGHT THE KINGDOM

Acts 8:12 But when they believed **Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ**, they were baptized, both men and women.

f) THE SEVENTY SENT OUT BY JESUS PREACHED THE KINGDOM

Luke 10:9 And heal the sick that are therein (the city), and say unto them, **The kingdom of God is come near unto you.**

g) THE APOSTLE PAUL PREACHED THE KINGDOM

Acts 20:25 And now, behold, I know that you all, among whom **I have gone preaching the kingdom of God**, shall see my face no more.

Acts 28:31 **Preaching the kingdom of God**, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Acts 19:8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively **about the kingdom of God.**

7. CONDITIONS FOR ENTERING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Luke 17:20-21

20 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, **"The kingdom of God does not come with observation;**

21 **nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.**

- The Pharisee always connect reality to what is external, outward and natural.
- So Jesus tells them that the Kingdom of God is within you ... and that the kingdom does not come with external observation!

Rom. 14:17 **For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.**

- The kingdom is not made up of natural things pertaining to the flesh (meat and drink) but of spiritual attributes in all three dimensions:
RIGHTEOUSNESS ... PEACE ... JOY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT
- So, the kingdom exists within the Holy Spirit!

Note: When we equate the Kingdom solely to the Christian control of business, politics, entertainment, arts, education (7 mountains), we may be missing the kingdom in its greater dimension.

The phrase, "KINGDOM OF GOD" is mentioned in 120 verses in the New Testament!

120 is a number signifying the TRANSFERENCE OF RULE IN THE SPIRIT!

- Transfer of kingdom rule from Belshazzar to Darius

Dan. 6:1-3 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; ²and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss.

- Transference of leadership from Moses to Joshua

Deut. 34:7-9 Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished. ⁸And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. So the days of weeping and mourning for Moses ended. ⁹Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

- Leadership transferred to Apostolic authority

Acts 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples^[c] (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, ¹⁶ "Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; ¹⁷ for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry."

Obviously, the natural world must come under the control or domain of King Jesus as stated in:

Rev. 1:15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

- As the kingdom manifests in greater measure, the institutions of this natural world must increasingly come under the rule of God's people!
- The "Christianising" of governments and institutions is not the purpose of the Kingdom but rather the consequence of a world increasingly under heavenly control.
- IT MUST COME BY THE PRINCIPLE OF KINGDOM INFLUENCE.

➤ **KINGDOM INFLUENCE**

Three Influencing Agents:

- **Leaven / yeast** - **Permeates**
- **Salt** - **Irritant, flavours, preserves**
- **Light** - **Illuminates, enlightens**

Matt. 13:33 He told them another parable. 'The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and **hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.**

- The yeast represents the kingdom of God!
- We are the sons of the kingdom and we should be like yeast in the systems of men.
- Yeast permeates and works its influence through the entire batch of dough!

Lk. 17:20-21 **The kingdom of God does not come with observation; ²¹ nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."**

- The kingdom (rule of God; basis of authority to govern) is within our hearts!
- The reality of the kingdom must explode from inside of us.
- When we are born again, the kingdom gets realised inside of us -the rulership of the King inside us.
- As we grow and develop in Christ, so must the kingdom develop and grow inside of us!
- We should learn to manifest the kingdom (rule of God) in and through our lives.
- We are the carriers of the divine nature of the king in our lives!

a. ENTRANCE CONDITION ONE - RIGHTEOUSNESS

Matt. 5:20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Entrance is conditioned on exhibiting a righteousness that exceeds that of the Pharisee. In God’s Kingdom, the Throne of God is established by Righteousness.

Prov.16:12 It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness,
For a throne is established by righteousness.

Heb. 1:8 Unto the Son He says, “Your Throne, O God, is forever and ever: A Scepter of Righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.”

The Kingdom of God is FIRST Righteousness; then Peace and finally Joy - and all of these issues are IN THE HOLY SPIRIT! So, in the Kingdom of God, RIGHTEOUSNESS is of supreme importance!

The very scepter of the King Jesus, is a scepter of Righteousness! The effect of righteousness is Peace!

What is a Sceptre?

- ‘Sceptre’
- = Heb. - Shebet; Gr. - skeptron,
 - = Properly a staff or rod.
 - = As a symbol of authority, the use of the sceptre originated in the idea that the ruler was as a shepherd of his people (Gen. 49:10 ; Num. 24:17; Psalms 45:6 ; Isaiah 14:5).
 - = This word originally meant a rod or staff. It was thence specifically applied to the shepherds staff, (Leviticus 27:32; Micah 7:14) and to the sceptre of a ruler.
 - = The allusions to it are all of a metaphorical character, and describe it simply as one of the insignia of supreme power. (Genesis 49:10)



Isa. 9:7 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.

Rom.1:1-4 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God ²which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, ³concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the

seed of David according to the flesh, ⁴ and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

- Justice and Righteousness upholds the Kingdom of Jesus Christ!

There can be no peace where Righteousness is not the established rule! The effect of Peace is Joy! Righteousness leads Peace and the effect of peace is Joy! There can be no Joy where there is no Peace! THIS ORDER CAN NEVER BE REVERSED OR REARRANGED!

RIGHTEOUSNESS → PEACE → JOY

This is a Divine arrangement in the Kingdom in the Holy Spirit! Any joy that does not proceed from Peace and Righteousness is a carnal, soulish, sensual joy!

So, the Kingdom of God is a glorious Kingdom of Righteousness!

In **Psalm 9:7-8** we are assured that ... “**the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. ⁸ He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.**”

The deepest cry of every son of God should be ... :

“Give the king Your judgments, O God, And Your righteousness to the king’s Son.

Psalm 72:1

Unrighteousness in the Earth Currently

As we survey the sad condition of life upon the earth today, it is plain for every eye to see that, flowing from the corrupt minds of the corrupt ruler of every corrupt government on earth, taught in schools, practiced in business and in the courts and propagated on every hand, we find the evil fruit of death manifesting itself in lies, deceit, opposition, cheating, injustice, variance, murders, adultery, uncleanness, idolatry, heresies, bigotry, crookedness, and sin of every kind! Everywhere on earth, in every nation under Heaven, mankind is being overwhelmed by its evil until the earth is filled with violence and the thoughts and imaginations of men’s hearts are only evil continually!

It is in this same context that Melchizedek, the **King of Righteousness** and Priest of God Most High appears to Abraham!

b. ENTRANCE CONDITION TWO – DOING THE WILL OF GOD

Matt. 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

- Entrance is conditioned on doing the will of God

c. ENTRANCE CONDITION THREE – ADOPTING THE ATTITUDE OF A CHILD

Matt. 18:1-4 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”² Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, ³and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

- Adopting the mentality of a child - “child-like”
- Innocence and Selflessness
- Explicit Obedience
- Naïve
- Defenseless
- Pure motives

d. ENTRANCE CONDITION FOUR – FREEDOM FROM THE CONTROL OF THE MATERIAL WORLD - EXHIBITING A SPIRIT OF DIFFERENCE

Matt. 19:23-24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is **hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.** ²⁴ And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

Matt. 5:3 **Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

(See also **Isa. 55:1-11**)*

- Being “poor in spirit” infers total dependence of God as your Source.
- Our riches and assets should not be our focus!
- Riches WITH God are more important. How material things are spent, acquired, valued should be brought into alignment with the kingdom.
- Wrong focus clouds the perception in the spirit - we can’t see the kingdom

- God is looking for a poverty of spirit!
- If natural wealth occupies your heart then the primary position of the king is transgressed.
- There should be the freedom from control of material things.
- We should “sell” our ministry “riches” to gain the kingdom.

Luke 12:15 And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.

e. ENTRANCE CONDITION FIVE – REQUIRES THE REMOVAL OF OFFENCE

Mark 9:47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.

- We feel offended when our rights are infringed upon.
- These are my “democratic rights” because in the kingdom “my rights” are vested in the king!
- We cannot esteem our rights above the king!
- Offense always causes us to turn inward - lack of forgiveness is the fruit of offense.
- Bitterness, pride and resentment accompany offense.

Prov. 18:19 – A brother offended [is harder to be won] than a strong city: and [their] contentions [are] like the bars of a castle.

Matt. 18:7 – Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

- We are blinded by offenses to only see ourselves. Only those liberated from the spirit of offense will enter the kingdom!

f. ENTRANCE CONDITION SIX – REQUIRES NEW BIRTH

Matt. 3:5-6 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

- Associated with initial salvation.
- Must be born of Word (water) and Spirit.

- There is a life that must come to us by the Word and the Spirit that causes us to manifest a genuine expression of what the kingdom is.

g. ENTRANCE CONDITION SEVEN – REQUIRES TRIBULATION

Acts 14:21-22 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, ²² **strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”**

- Tribulation is part of the process of God to train us for kingdom life.
- Conflict and hardships are synonymous with kingdom living.
- A period of internal conflict and hardship we must undergo to enter the kingdom.
- Not demonic conflict - but inner conflict and tumult of the soul - experiencing a loss along the way, so that Christ is all we seek and consult.
- Tribulation is not an option but a necessary component to enter the kingdom.
- It is the vehicle that deals with all the fleshly and worldly things in us that prevents our entering.
- Submission to the Holy Spirit when we experience inner turmoil works patience so that we develop persistence which helps us to journey into the kingdom.

8. “KING” DEFINED

a. Hebrew Concept

KING = Melek (Hebrew), it means:

- To Possess
- To Reign
- To have both Power and Authority
- To have influence and recognition
- Ruler, monarch, supreme authority



b. THE KING IN REPRESENTATION

Jesus Christ is our King of Righteousness!

Our Seated King-Priest:

Jesus Christ is our seated King-Priest which constitutes Him in the **Order of Melchizedek**:

“Melchi” = King + “Zedek” = Righteousness

Jesus Christ is our King of Righteousness!

The realm over which He currently governs is not a physical, geographical area with natural boundaries, but He rules and reigns over Righteousness within the hearts of men!

Lk.17:20-21 **The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, “Here is it, or there is it, because the kingdom of God is within you”**

Ps. 29:10 **The Lord sits enthroned as King forever.**

Ps. 2:6 **I have installed MY King on Zion My Holy Hill”**

‘Zion’ refers to the true Church – see Heb.12:22-24.

Heb. 12:22-24 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel

Ps. 47:7-8 **God is the King of all the earth. God reigns over the nations; God is seated on His Holy Throne**

John 18:36 **Are you a King, then!” said Pilate, Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world (*Kosmos= system of evil governance via Satan = god of this world*), to testify to the truth”**

Important :

- The King (Jesus Christ) is the central hub of His Kingdom and embodies the essence of the Kingdom!
- The King is the ultimate source of authority in the Kingdom!
- The Royal authority of the King flows out of His Sovereignty (holding a position of all power of creation)!

As King, Jesus Christ rules and reigns, governs and exercises dominion over all creation.

As Priest, Jesus Christ establishes reconciliation among men, intercedes for us and represents peace.

As King, Jesus Christ:

- Sits enthroned with the Father God – **Rev.3:21, Rev.22:1**
- Exercises authority over all things in heaven and earth – **Matt.28:19-20**
- All enemies are to be placed under His feet. He will reign in heaven until the last enemy, death has been brought under the authority of the redeemed – **1.Cor.15:24-28**
- Rules in righteousness, peace and Joy – **Isa.32:1; Rom.14:17**
- All kingdoms of this world to be subjected to Him through His Church.– **Rev.11:5-19**
- He rules the Church, His Body which is also after the order of Melchizedek, an order of King-Priests unto God – **1 Pet.2:5-9, Rev.1:5-6, Rev.5:9-10**
- God has given Him to be Head over all things to the Church – **Eph.1:20-22**
- He is King of Kings – **Rev.19:6**
- He is King of glory – **Ps.24:7-10**

Note: The enthronement of Jesus Christ, the God-man, fulfills the prophecy of Zechariah that the Man whose name was The Branch (God's Sceptre) would sit and rule upon the Throne; and He shall be a priest upon His Throne; and the counsel of Peace shall be between both (King + Priest) – **Zech.6:12-13**

A King Represents:

*Government * Authority * Administration * Warfare

*Justice * Influence * Power of Decree

c. THE KING EMBODIES THE TOTALITY OF GOVERNMENT AND RULE

Isa. 33:22 For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King...

We see all branches of government vested within the Reigning King!

i) The Lord is Judge = Judiciary = System of courts

ii) The Lord is Lawgiver = Legislature = Body relating to making laws!

iii) The Lord is King = Executive = Body concerned with performance management, administration.

- This is an authority in government that carries the laws into effect!
- The Church is the embodiment of all three branches of government at present. Our king (Jesus) is in session in Heaven, administering His Kingdom from the eternal, invisible realm!

- We execute His justice and righteous decrees into the earth!
- The Church is the depository and perpetuating agency of kingdom principles which are vital to the welfare of humanity!

9. TWO CHARACTERISTICS TRAITS OF THE KINGDOM

(1) Of its increase there shall be no end:

Dan. 2:44 ...The God of Heaven will set up a Kingdom that will never be destroyed... it will crush all those (other) kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever

Isa. 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end"

"Increase"

- Growth, enlargement, expansion, intensification, proliferation

"No End"

- No bounds, no limitations, ongoing, perpetual

(2) As the kingdom (your willing submission to be ruled by God) increases in your life, so peace increases with it.

- Kingdom increase brings kingdom peace; and kingdom peace brings kingdom joy!
- Righteousness precedes peace!
- No righteousness, no peace!
- No peace, no joy!

10. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT RELIGION

- It is not keeping a set of rules.
- It is also not subscribing to a humanistic philosophy of life.
- Nor is it doing some religious activity!

Rom.14:17 The Kingdom of God is not a matter of food and drink.

"Food and drink" in the context of this Scripture refer to law, religion, rules and rituals which rob the church of the true power of God. Kingdom life is not, going to church, singing songs, appeasing self, doing all the right things, yet so many areas of your life is under your own control. **Kingdom life is having God as KING in the centre of your life AT ALL TIMES**

Ex. 20:1 **You shall have no other gods beside** *(in addition or beyond)* **Me.**

Col. 2:14-23 (Read)

These things only have an appearance of wisdom in self- imposed religion of no value!

11. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE AND JOY

Rom. 14:17 **The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy** in the Holy Spirit.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Internal rectitude - uprightness of heart and mind.
- Coming into divine compliance.
- Living by the laws of the King.
- Righteousness is the principle of God's Integrity!
- Righteousness is our right positioning with Kingdom government!
- Righteousness is "adjusting to the law of a judge".
- Righteousness is "adjusting to the justice of God".
- Righteousness gives you access to all the rights, resources and privileges of citizenship in the Kingdom.
- Righteousness is the way by which we relate to the King and His government.
- So, righteousness has to do with how we maintain our relational position of favour with the King.

PEACE

John 16:33 **In Me you will have peace...In the world you will have tribulation ...**

- The more you submit to the rule of God in all spheres of your life the more you will dispel tribulation and peace will increase!
- Peace OF GOD must become the internal referee, "pastor" of your life.
- Peace must rule us!
- Peace speaks not just of the absence of trouble.
- Peace is wholeness, and health in every part of your life: body, soul, spirit!

"Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end"

Government:

- His right to rule you.
- His right to set the laws by which you live.

Peace increases in direct proportion to the increase of His government (rule) in your life!

JOY

Joy is an inner strength that exists no matter what the circumstances of the environment around you.

- **“The joy of the Lord is my strength” (Neh.8:10)**
- **“Strength” is internal fortitude**

Joy is His strength perfected in me.

12. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT OF THIS WORLD

John 18:36 My Kingdom is not of this world.

- God’s Kingdom is not related in any way to worldly systems, or the inventions of mankind be they financial, medical, security/peace, emotional, etc.
- God’s Kingdom is not of this physical, temporary, time-related system.

13. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT IN WORD, BUT IN POWER

1 Cor. 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

- The Kingdom of God is not found in much talk but is “doing” (Executive action), and powerful results!
- It is putting the Word into action in your life!

14. THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN EXISTS NOW, HERE!

- It is spiritual & invisible!
- Yet it governs the material & visible!
- It is inhabited by people who have been born again spiritually!
- The Kingdom of Heaven operates on a different perspective, viz. eternal!
- It is governed by Laws, which drive the heart of the KING Jesus!

15. THE “CONSTITUTION” OF THE KINGDOM

The Constitution of God’s Kingdom ...

- Is a system of fundamental principles.
- Is a system of fundamental virtues.

- Has principles & virtues (standards of moral excellence) that determine the quality and conduct of life!
- Is contained in the **SERMON ON THE MOUNT - MATTHEW 5:1-11**
- Has no amendments!
- Is immutable (unchangeable) and rooted within the Divine Essence of Deity!
- Sums up a new way of life - A NEW ORDER!
- DEMANDS AN INNER REVOLUTION OF ATTITUDE AND OUTLOOK!

Matt 5:1-11

- 1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.
- 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:
- 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.
- 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

The **Laws of the Kingdom of Heaven** are also known as **BEATITUDES!**

- It is a declaration of supreme blessedness for those who "BE OF THE SAME ATTITUDE" as the KING.
- The Beatitudes provide the framework within which life should be operated!

Each Beatitude demonstrates the immutable Divine essence of our KING!

- They reveal in a progressive way, the unchangeable NATURE of our KING!
- The sum-total of these Beatitudes reveal the "BLESSEDNESS" of Kingdom living on earth!
- They connect us to the ineffable (defying expression or description) NAME of God - **YAHWEH!**

YAHWEH

- Root in Hebrew = **“TO BE”**, or **“HE WHO CAUSES EVERYTHING TO BE”**
- So, “Yahweh” is the **CAUSE**, the **REASON** and **ORIGIN** of everything!
- HE is THE **“I AM”**
- Yahweh would reveal Himself according to their need at hand!
- Whatever their need, HE would become the **SUPPLY** and **SOURCE**!
- If they needed **PEACE**, He was Jehovah – Shalom (“I AM your Peace)
- If they needed **VICTORY**, He was Jehovah – Nissi (“I AM your Banner”)
- If they needed **PROVISION**, He was Jehovah – Jireh (“I AM your Provider”)
- The people had to **ACKNOWLEDGE** their **NEED**! Then Jehovah supplies!

The Beatitudes reveal God’s power, nature & will at the point of our need.

Acknowledgement of our **NEED** and utter **DEPENDENCE** is the overriding lesson of the Beatitudes! The self-sufficient, the self-righteous and self-willed person will never experience the Kingdom of Heaven on earth!

The 1st Beatitude, if observed, shows our **Declaration of Dependence on God** & ends with **Being Sold Out to the will of the King**

THE BEATITUDES SUMMARISED:

1. Acknowledging need for God & your spiritual bankruptcy.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

2. You mourn for your sins.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

- * You live in repentance!
- * The greatness of His forgiveness leads us to mourn / burdened for others.
- * We become intercessors!

3. The meek places himself under God’s control & discipline - Yielding!

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

4. Yielding to the King sets your life’s course in pursuit of Him.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”

- * Yearning for the King’s nature, righteousness and holiness to flood you.
- * More of God means more of His power!
- * The King now provides power for Service!

5. You begin to think toward men as God thinks toward us!

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

- * You are empowered to serve humanity with the King’s compassion, grace and mercy!

6. The climax in our progression in God is to SEE HIM.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

- * This requires hearts that are pure, single and undivided.
- * Whose devotion is without mixture!

7. You work for true peace between men and the King, and men with each other!

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

Being sold out to the King and His will and purpose attracts the persecution and suffering that others inflict upon you.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.”

- But you are reassured that being persecuted for righteousness, establishes the Spirit of glory on you!

Our King-Priest Identity

Kingdom Dynamics

1. IN CHRIST WE ARE KING-PRIESTS

Rev. 1:5-6 To Him who loves us, and has freed us from our sins by His blood, **and He has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father**, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Rev. 5:9-10 And they (*4 living creatures + 24 elders*) sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slain, and with Your blood You purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. **You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.**”

- The emphasis is on reigning “kings” who are first in order and rank!
- This order was received from the priesthood of Jesus Christ - the order of Melchizedek.

2. THE “KING-PRIEST” PRINCIPLE IN A FUNCTIONAL SENSE

- How is this order portrayed in the Old Testament?
- Remember: The law was a schoolmaster leading us to Christ. We will import the divine principles from the wineskin of the law to uncover how our kingship is to operate in our day!

2.1 The Old Testament Order

- 12 tribes constituted Israel. “12” indicates God’s governmental perfection that was contained within the corporate oneness of the 12 tribes.
- The tribe of Levi was set apart for full-time ministry inside of the Temple.
- These priests from Levi acted as mediators on behalf of the other 11 tribes!

2.2 Their job was to:

- Hear from God.
- Share the visions and passions of God.
- Keep the other 11 tribes in touch with God.

- The priests from the tribe of Levi were provided for by the tithes and offerings of the other 11 tribes.
- The priesthood's role, function and calling were "full-time" ministry IN the temple/tabernacle!
- The other 11 tribe's role, function and calling were outside the temple - within broader society!
- They were God's people embedded in the community, or the systems of Babylon!
- These 11 tribes were actively involved in every sphere of human interchange outside the temple: government, arts, media, entertainment, economics, business and education.
- This means that their role, function and calling were to be kings!

Note:

Israel had a theistic society, homogenous population, a common culture, one language and a theocratic government. They had no mixture! We, however, have a pluralistic society with diverging viewpoints, cultures, philosophies and ideologies within which "spiritual Israel", the Church, must operate!

The apostle Peter confirms this principle is for the New Testament Church:

1 Pet. 2:9 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.

- One nation which is a royal priesthood
- Royal = kings

Note

- Some are not called to be priests and others kings.
- There is no dichotomy between "kings" and "priests"
- In the New Testament these two functions are fused into one. We are both!
A king and a priest in one!
- The order of our priesthood is patterned after Melchizedek!
- King is first! First in time, rank, order and function!

However, New Testament believers will function more as one than the other, according to our grace configuration! But they are both! **We are all "full-time"!**

Church is everywhere you are !

If you operate more as a king outside the temple, then your employer is paying you to be “full-time”. This is partly how the wealth of the Gentiles is stored up for the righteous (**Prov. 13:22**).

3. THE ROLE OF KINGS

The role of a king includes the following: To **govern, create wealth, war, lead**, bring about **justice** in society, have **influence** outside the temple!

Kings are territorial. Territory forms the foundation of their strength to govern! This means you need to step into a mentality that your Heavenly Father owns the earth and everything in it and that He has made you a co-heir with Christ of His assets. As king, your jurisdiction is the earth! You have been given the responsibility to steward and govern the earth for God!

Spiritual ministry is not just limited to pastors! Pastors are not the only practitioners of the Spirit. A lawyer is a “pastor” to his clients who are his sheep in the context of his law practice! **God designated us to be kings in the systems of men.** Our full-time ministry is to be mayors, lawyers, employers, business owners, teachers, electricians etc.!

WE ARE SENT ONES INTO OUR COMMUNITIES! We must begin to see our jobs and businesses as “slaves” to serve our king. We are commanded to reign in the earth. Reigning has to do with our position in Christ and our right to administrate the Kingdom on His behalf!

To **REIGN** means to **transmit your heavenly position into our daily activities on behalf of God.** Remember that you are seated with Christ in Heavenly places! You occupy a high position! Your position establishes you in superiority over earthly systems! You have a rank above Satan and every earthly position attained through university study! **WE ARE SENT ONES INTO THE JURISDICTIONS OF THE EARTH TO MAKE EVERY REGION COMPLIANT TO THE DEMANDS OF THE THRONE!**

4. DIFFERENCES IN KINGLY AND PRIESTLY FUNCTIONS

- Kings are community transformers! They “work” for God **IN the community!**
- Kings are priests operating as kings in the systems of the earth. We are wise as serpents, yet as harmless as doves! Yet they are kings operating as priests in the temple!
- As kings we war against injustice and unrighteousness.
- As priests we preach peace and bring about reconciliation among men!

- As kings we rule, set heavenly standards, invade and capture territory through our operations for God.
- As priests we create bridges over which men can walk to meet our King!
- Church is everywhere kings go!

5. YOU ARE A KING SENT TO YOUR “WORLD”

There are two **“worlds” (kosmos), systems of function, organised, systematic arrangements** – on earth, viz. the “world” of Satan which is defined as Babylon, and the “world” of God which is the kingdom!

Both worlds have access points into the earth called gates, viz. gates of heaven and gates of hell. A gate is a point of entrance, giving access to either good or bad!

Babylon = “bab” + “el”
 “bab” = gate + “el” = gods
 = “Gate of gods”

However, **human life** reflecting heaven accurately on earth becomes a **“gate” of access for God!** In a sense, we are the “gates” of heaven, regulating the environment of the earth and making earth conducive for God to move! So, when we talk about kingdom advance (forceful men), we are talking about **imposing the will of God upon inaccurate systems, influencing them with kingdom principles, making them compliant to the throne!**

So, you are a sent one to your world, or jurisdiction of function. It may be a beauty salon, bakery, teacher, etc. Whatever context of life you may find yourself in, there you are God’s ‘Sent One’ into these spheres of life, influencing them for God!

YOU ARE THE CHURCH IN YOUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE!

AS PRIEST YOU REPRESENT THE THRONE TO THE EARTH! (RIGHTEOUSNESS & JUSTICE)

AS KING YOU REPRESENT AND ADVANCE THE THRONE’S AGENDA IN THE EARTH!

(Matt. 28:18-20).

How To Govern For God

1. INTRODUCTION

Joshua 10:16

But these five kings had fled and hidden themselves in a cave at Makkedah.

- Many kings have fled and hidden themselves. This is a reference to our current “church” ethos!
- Today, the cave of Makkedah is the temple in which they are hiding. They have no desire to interact society for God!
- These kings have fled from their mandate to govern and are now hidden in the caves of irresponsibility and self-indulgence.
- These are kings that abdicated their responsibility, stewardship, authority and power to rule and reign.
- They build their own temporal kingdoms for personal indulgence and are not concerned about the eternal kingdom of God.
- They have no sense of spiritual purpose and destiny.

It is time to come out of the caves of complacency, self-will and irresponsibility! Break out of your tomb of fear and past hurt. It is time to advance the Will of God in your jurisdiction!

2. IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TO UNDERSTAND

The Church is God’s gift (son) to the world.

The Church is God’s corporate son given to the world.

The Church is the only redeeming element within the world today!

The Church is God’s vehicle for **influence** and change in any sphere of life.

Three Influencing agents:

- **Salt** of the earth – Salt **preserves, irritates and provides taste**
- **Light** of the world – Light brings **vision, perception and illumination**
- **Yeast** of the kingdom – Yeast **permeates with its nature**

Eph. 3:10

In order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the Church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly realms.

- The many-faceted wisdom of Christ is to be made known through the Church to the powers which reflect themselves in the neighbourhoods and communities.
- Our apostolic mandate is to reveal Christ through the Church to our communities!

God's Vision Statement:

Hab. 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

- Glory speaks of the recognition of the Lord's hidden reputation – manifest it!
- The world, the community and the inhabitants of the earth need a vision of the glory of God.
- It is the responsibility of the Church to declare, manifest and reveal Christ in His hidden identity and character.
- In this sense, the Church is to look like Jesus Christ, act like Jesus Christ and demonstrate Christ to its jurisdictions!

Rev. 5:9-10 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

We have been called to serve our God as King-Priests, and rule and reign as kings in the earth!

3. HOW DO WE CHANGE PERSPECTIVE?

The demands of the 21st century life which includes the increase of corruption, the enlargement of Babylon's influence in the affairs of nations, a church diminishing in influence, economic crises and the slide into moral chaos are all current issues that households of faith will have to contend with before the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Households of faith will have to cast vision all over again! **Why?** We will have to disconnect our vision from it just purely being a priestly operation to incorporate the kingly assignment of the Church!

NOTE

- If we want to see our communities transformed, then we must integrate both vision and values of community transformation into our lives.

- Our goal must be to grow our jurisdictional environment and not just grow our local church.
- We must become relevant to the jurisdiction we live in.
- We can no longer be one-dimensional as believers – we cannot just operate IN Church.
- We must take Church OUTSIDE into society to make a difference in all spheres!

3.1. BECOMING REDEMPTIVELY RELEVANT

A major shift of paradigm for those currently operating within the context of the apostolic is to embrace the issue of being “**redemptively relevant**” within our unfolding kairos! The word, “relevance” will become an issue that all of us will have to step into if we want to generationally exist until the 2nd coming of Christ!

- This calls for adjustment
- This calls for flexibility

Relevance is a major issue in the church today!

- The community calls the church an irrelevant entity in the world today!
- Relevance speaks of significance, weight (glory), importance, consequence and application. It is an important issue component of reaching the community.
- Without relevance we lose the best of God to Babylon!
- Without relevance the church remains safe but trapped inside the ethos it has created for itself!
- Without relevance you cannot communicate.
- Without influence you remain an outsider – a spectator.

1 COR. 9:22-23

To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some. I do all things for the sake of the gospel, that I may become a fellow partaker of it” –

The Divine Balance

- **The church becomes relevant for the purpose of redemption!**
- **Without this goal / objective, you will compromise your position!**
- Relevance is a means to an end!
- To many church-centric people, relevancy seems like compromise.
- You don’t just become all things unto all men!

YOU BECOME ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN THAT WE MIGHT WIN SOME FOR CHRIST!

- Jesus was relevant for the sake of redemption!
- Real relevancy is community-centric.
- Real relevancy is favour with both God and men!
- **Real ministry is not just being right with God, but being right with God and men!**

Luke 2:52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, **and in favour with God and men.**

1 Tim. 3:7 **An elder must have a good reputation with those outside the Church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.**

Redemptive relevancy is not compromise. It is to “open the eyes so that people might turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Christ” **Acts 26:18**

4. KINGS WHO HAVE A WRONG WORLDVIEW

The traditional Church ethos has magnified the priestly role and minimised the kingly role! We have the mindset today that you can only be “full-time” in ministry “in the temple”! The priests have made the Church their community!

This worldview has brought us the following wrong belief-system (Ed Silvoso)

- The Church is called to operate primarily inside a building – (we “go to church” ethos).
- People involved in business cannot be spiritual as those serving in traditional church ministry.
- They created a division between clergy and laity.
- Priests must study theology to become a priest (pastor).
- The primary role of ‘market’ place believers is to make money to support the vision of those in the ministry!

Misbeliefs that impact negatively upon believer’s operation as kings:

- You have really made it if you are in full-time ministry in the Church.
- The society at large are evil; the church is holy.
- Being entrepreneurial, making a profit and being wealthy is unholy.
- The anointing lies only on those “in ministry” in the temple.
- Only priests (pastors) are elders at the city gates.

Both the priestly and kingly are two important anointings in a believer's life:

- A priestly mindset grows churches.
- A kingly mindset grows communities, cities and nations.
- The king's calling, role and ministry is primarily to the community!
- Kings know how to serve at church but minister in the community!
- As priest I connect with Heaven - favour with God.
- As king I advance the will of God in the earth - favour with men.

Imperatives

- We are king-priests!
- Pastors are kings and must transform by engaging their communities in active service. Expand the vision of your local church into the entire spiritual jurisdiction where you exist!
- Kings were anointed for service, to rule, reign, influence, advance and war.
- The Lord's anointed may be a businessman, a king called to pastor a business.
- The Lord's anointed could be a mayor, called to pastor a city.
- The Lord's anointed may be a teacher in a school, called to mentor the children in his care.

Our daily, ordinary interaction within the community as a businessman, teacher, electrician, mayor or entertainer is a great imperative to redefine the Church to your community!

It is our duty to raise dead businesses within our communities, help the lame councillors to walk in righteousness, help blind educators to see, release and set free the uneducated, undeveloped, and unskilled.

It is time to take stock of the different grace configurations within your local household of faith. Pastors are called to have a "kings" mentality. They must administrate the grace under their care, otherwise we lose them!

Do a forensic audit of your local house - enumerate the grace potential - develop it, skill it and release it for greater kingdom expansion!

Governmental Decree

The Warfare Expression of the Apostolic

When the Apostolic anointing came into the earth, “**Governmental Prayer**” came with it! What does it mean? **WE GOVERN BY OUR PRAYER! WE RULE AND REIGN THROUGH PRAYER!**

1. To GOVERN means:

To direct, to control, to rule with authority, to administer the laws.

2. Defining Governmental Prayer:

- (1) Governmental prayer is infused with Kingdom reality, Kingdom activation, and Kingdom understanding.
- (2) It is not personally focused, it is focused on meeting the needs of God and is based on **Matt. 6:33: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all His righteousness and all these thing will be added (given) unto you”**
- (3) Governmental prayer is a birthing and bringing in of things already determined in the mind and heart of God.
- (4) It has no personal ambition and selfish aims. It is totally submitted to serving God as a vehicle to manifest His desires.
- (5) It is strong prayer that serves the kingdom purposes of God! It seeks to see the Church established as the praise of God in the earth!

3. Features of Governmental Prayer:

It is prayer for kingdom advance:

Matt. 6:9 “...Your WILL be done on earth as it is in heaven”

- (1) Not personal.
- (2) Connected to God’s throne.
- (3) Visible demonstration of the kingdom via enforcing and imposing the will of God.

- (4) We are hooked to the King and now we can bring what's on the King's heart into the earth.
- (5) **"As" = according to the same intensity as God longs for the things of Heaven to come to the earth!**
- (6) We must have the same longing and the same intensity that drives our spirit!
- (7) In other words, the only way to live life accurately in the earth is to measure our lives against Heaven.

NOTE:

- A. Government and Kingdom are connected and inseparable.
- B. No Kingdom without Government.
- C. What the King decrees is the Law by which the people must live.
- D. Only a King makes decrees. A King sits on His Throne and He installs a law by speaking it forth!
- E. We are Kings: **1 Pet. 2:9** **"...you are a royal priesthood, a holy nation"**
- F. We govern by decrees.
- G. Government of God in the heart = the Kingdom within.

4. What is a Decree?

- (1) To decree means to speak on the same frequency as Heaven, and declare what God from eternity past has declared to be lawful in this season and back it up by strong Word.
- (2) It is the installing of a word / law within a territory.
- (3) You cannot release a decree if you're not under the authority of King Jesus. We must come under His Lordship.
- (4) We speak what God speaks.
- (5) **Ecc. 8:4** **"Where the word of a king is, there is power"**. When we release the word, it has power to take on form – we are ruling with the King. We are living in a war zone. If you have not got deeply embedded within your spirit, the disposition to war, you cannot be called apostolic. Apostolic people are a "warfaring" people.
- (6) To make a decree is to speak forth what God has ordained for this season to come to pass. His divine purpose for NOW (Present Truth) we need to discern and boldly release by declarations of faith and works of faith into the spirit realm.

- (7) To decree means to act upon the will of God.
- (8) By decreeing, you pass new laws in the Heavenly realm to displace the rulership of evil laws that has been passed by devils to cause people within regions to submit to satan via culture, religion, race etc.
- (9) To decree is not to petition God or to request, but the Greek literally means to **COMMAND!**
- (10) We speak to the thing we want to see removed! It is power via words to create what I say!

5. Governmental Prayer is Deep Prayer for Christ to be Formed within the Sons:

Gal. 4:19 I am again in the pains of childbirth that Christ might be formed in you.

Some observations:

- (1) One aspect of an Apostolic “ruling” position is a **deep concern** and **care** for the **well-being** and the **forward progress** of the saints.
- (2) **Gal. 4:19** gives us insight into Apostolic counter-attack in the church today! The enemy attacked the church with **legalism**.
- (3) Its purpose is forming of Christ within the sons. This is the most powerful governmental attack upon enemy positions in the church.

The End Result:

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

6. Governmental Prayer is Warfare for Building the Temple or Purpose of God

The ultimate purpose is to bring God’s glory into His Temple!

Ps. 68:16 Why gaze in envy, O rugged mountains, at the mountain where God chooses to reign, where the Lord himself will dwell forever?

- (1) Ruling by decree is not warfare for personal deliverance or personal struggles, or warfare that engages the enemy over certain spiritual jurisdictions alone, but warfare for **building the temple, or purpose of God.**
- (2) This warfare is not selfish! It is kingdom-purposed prayer! We pray into God's eternal purpose.
- (3) The ultimate purpose of Apostolic decreeing is to bring God's **glory into His temple!** **(Rev. 21)**
- (4) **Rev. 21: 3** " And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God"
- (5) Everything in the earth is waiting for God's dwelling to be with men.
- (6) **"Dwell"** is the Hebrew word **Yasab**. It carries the idea of permanence, or being settled, or being unmoved! It also means being in a place forever! To be fixed!
- (7) God is looking for a generation that will not just have His presence / glory remain for a while, but He wants a fixed place in the earth that can HOLD / CONTAIN His glory forever!
- (8) So, our warfare today is aimed at bringing into the earth God's PERMANENT dwelling place with men!

Hold fast = To snatch away; to carry off by force; to plunder; to press into something.

Kingdom – advancing prayer people shake the spirit realm through strong, authoritative governmental prayer!

Advance = A military term which means to strategically lift the level of offensive activity in order to obliterate the opposition.

Know the Following in Your Advance:

1. We move in the Spirit from a position of assured victory.
2. Jesus has already wrought the enemy legally – we must enter into His victorious stance and wrought Him experientially.

Rev. 1:5 Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

Jesus is the ruler over all the earth, and satanic kingdoms. When we pray we enter into His accomplished work, finished work and enforce His ruler ship in the earth!

The corporeal principle: - we represent Him.

Col. 2:15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Authorities: This comes from the Greek word “exousia”, which means, “legal jurisdiction, or the right to control over”.

Jesus took away the Devil’s legal jurisdiction, or his right to control over regions and us. When we pray, we enter into that accomplished fact!

3. We through decree, remind these principalities and demonic strongholds of their legal disarmament via the cross!

1 John 3:8 For this purpose the Son of God was made manifest, that He might destroy the works of the Devil.

Destroy = To violate, or to break a command or law.
To loose what is bound or held captive.

Jesus violated and broke the satanic and evil speech that bound us and gave the Devil legal access to us!

4. Jesus gave his Church His authority (Matt. 28:20) **GO!** We have the right to govern and control, loosing, shattering what is held captive – violating satanic alliances / networks and satanic utterances.
5. We have the legal right and authority to violate Satan, not just from a humanistic and earthly point of view, but also from the position of the finish – the accomplished fact! We enforce His victory!
6. Understand that Jesus is our **High Priest over our Confession**.

Heb. 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share *(or are partakers)* in the heavenly calling, consider *(fix your thoughts)* Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession *(or whom we confess)*.

What we confess / say / speak / declare / decree what HE says / speaks / declares and decrees!

Heb. 4:15 **Seeing then that we have a great High Priest that has passed into (through) the heavens** *(as He passed through, He declared His victory over every dominion)*, **Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.**

Heb.10:35 **Cast not away therefore your confidence, which has great recompense of reward”** *(which will be greatly rewarded)*

Confidence = Your freedom of speech, or your confession (home + logeo = speaking the same as the written word of God).

7. **Mk.11:23** **“Whosoever shall say unto this mountain..”**

A governmental decree is a speaking forth God’s prophetic intent for a particular season. So, when we enter into the finished work of Christ, we declare with authority what He has already wrought!

“Say” = Command / confess / speaking – not so much to God, but to the thing to be moved!

Scriptures for Meditation and Study

Psalm 2

- 1 Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing?
- 2 The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
- 3 "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!"
- 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them.
- 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying,
- 6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."
- 7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.
- 8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession.
- 9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'"
- 10 Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth.
- 11 Worship the LORD with reverence And rejoice with trembling.
- 12 Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish *in* the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

Psalm 110

- 1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."
- 2 The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, *saying*, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies."
- 3 Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; In holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to You *as* the dew.
- 4 The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."
- 5 The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath.
- 6 He will judge among the nations, He will fill *them* with corpses, He will shatter the chief men over a broad country.
- 7 He will drink from the brook by the wayside; Therefore He will lift up *His* head.

Prov. 16:10a A divine decision is in the lips of the king. (Nasb)

Job 22:28 You will also decree a thing, and it will be established for you; And light will shine on your ways. (Nasb)

Ecc. 8:4a Where the word of a king is, there is power ... (NKJV)

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 28 horizontal dotted lines.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 sets of three horizontal dotted lines.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 30 horizontal dotted lines.

ABOUT SHAUN BLIGNAUT



Shaun Blignaut is the Senior Pastor of GATE International Port Elizabeth. Shaun is focused on bringing the Body of Christ to maturity. He is dedicated to teaching, developing and training leaders. Through strong prophetic teachings, he challenges, warns and activates the Church to re-connect to the centrality of Christ and His Kingdom.

Email : shaunblignaut34@gmail.com

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/shaun.blignaut.3>

[Note: Shaun's website is currently undergoing an upgrade and will be live soon]