

9 | THE KINGDOM OF GOD



Basilea

The first church was steeped in the good news about the Kingdom of God, which Jesus discussed with the apostles until after His death. This was the seed that made the first Ekklesia powerful. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, it confirmed who Jesus was and what His mission was.

The Greek word translated Kingdom of God is basilea. This means the exercise of royal rule. **It does not refer to a land with borders or inhabitants of a country, but to the action of the king in that area.**

Good news

Jesus begins by proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is good news, and explains what this good news is. Satan has occupied the earth, making people sick, taking them captive and keeping them under control. Through the coming of Jesus, Satan's power comes to an end.

Jesus, by Himself fulfilling the law and living righteously, has broken this power of Satan. Satan can find nothing in Him: no sin, evil, no distrust of the Father. As a result, he has no power over Jesus and the places Jesus takes authority over. Jesus submits to God, the Almighty, and therefore everything that binds Jesus will remain bound. **While on earth, He preaches, heals the sick, frees those bound by demons, forgives sins and raises the dead (Mark 1:15).**

The earth cursed

Adam and Eve made a choice in the garden with far-reaching consequences. The curse brought death, enmity, trouble and disease to the earth. The world was no longer just good; there was no longer just peace, joy and righteousness.

By choosing independence from God, man gives away the authority he received from God. Satan now gains power on earth and people come under his sphere of influence. Man's eyes are closed to the world of God's Kingdom and opened to the other world: where Satan rules. *(Genesis 3:7-12)*

Freed from the curse

By having meals together, by discussing together what the royal reign of Jesus does in our lives, eyes are opened to the Kingdom of God. In the Ekklesia you may come home to God. The Ekklesia is a place where disciples are made, disciples who do what Jesus shows and commands them to do.

Together in your Ekklesia you can follow the good King Jesus; together you learn to live in righteousness, peace and joy. The King is sovereign and rules; He sets the rules in the Kingdom.

Because the Kingdom of God is good news, the King will make every effort to make justice, peace and joy reign in His kingdom. The principles of the Kingdom of God given by Jesus are the keys to open

the doors, live royally and receive the inheritance. In the Ekklesia, we can experience His authority and rule royally. Jesus has become our head and we are now His body on earth. (*Romans 14:17*)

Ekklesia

The Ekklesia is a place where there is love and a home. A place where you may be yourself, a place where you are loved and valued and where your destiny is recognized. Jesus came to earth to reveal God as Father. He is a Father who loves His children, His heirs. Jesus Himself links the Kingdom to God's Fatherhood, in the prayer He taught us, "Our Father who art in heaven, let thy kingdom come."

EXERCISE:

1. Does Jesus the King have the right to rule in you and your family as well? Can He really be allowed to be King over everything?
2. If so, what effect does that have in your family? Can you see that the blessing is working through you into your family and that you have become the source of light and blessing in those you hold dear?
3. Take time to ask the Holy Spirit if there are other areas in your life where you may reign Royal. Ask Him for steps and for evidence that make Royal reign visible.
4. Describe how Royal reigning has a place in your Ekklesia.



LESSON LEARNED:

The Kingdom of God is good news. People are forgiven, set free and healed. When Jesus becomes your King, that Good News will come not only into your life, but also into those who see the Good News in you and begin to follow you.

