Part 16 **THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND ITS CHILDREN (The Entrance)**

The fall of man left mankind outside the garden and continual fellowship with God their creator. The Serpent told them, your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

As the result, man became independent from God, and pride set in as Satan’s nature took over their influence. Spiritual separation and death followed. They did not physically die immediately but time would prevail and they died. Satan cast doubt on God’s word and lead mankind independent from God and obedience to His word.

Therefore, those who enter the kingdom of God and become His subjects are those who have repented and been forgiven.

They had to be born again. The first life was subject to death and separation. The new birth would be as God intended, eternal and no more separation from their creator.

**Mark 1:15** ***“The time is fulfilled, and THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS COME NEAR, Repent and believe in the good news!***

**Acts 2:37-38** ***“When they heard this, they were pricked in their heart and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles: Brothers, what must we do?***

***Repent, Peter said to them, and be baptized, each of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”***

**I John 1:9** ***“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”***

**Note:** To repent and be forgiven is to become ***“born again”*** just as Jesus said in **St. John 3:3**

Jesus replied, I assure you: ***“Unless someone is born again,***

 ***he cannot see the kingdom of God.”***

**St. John 3:5** ***“I assure you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”***

Paul writes in **Romans 10:9-10,13** these words:

***“If you confess with our mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him(Jesus) from the dead, you will be saved.***

***With the heart one believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses, resulting in salvation.***

***For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”***

**Note:** To confess Him as Lord is proper because He is a king and Lord. We are brought into His kingdom. We become His subject.

 No longer under the control of Satan and the darkness of sin. Eternal life has come and the light of God’s truth has dispelled the darkness and our eyes are open to the truth again. Man’s eyes were opened to sin and closed to the truth in the fall of man.

Our confession is, Jesus Christ is my Lord and savior.

He is first Lord, then Savior, why, because He was Lord before we were ***“born again.”*** We were born again, we made Him our Lord, then He became our Savior.

When we were ***“born again”*** we were born into the kingdom of God as newborn babes. **(I Peter2:2)**

We are to grow and be nurtured on God’s word, like a babe from its mother’s breast, which is the food from heaven provided for the believer form our Father in heaven. Not manna, but living eternal bread. The faith of the child grows at the same time. We grow to become completely dependent on our Father when we see all He has done and all He is doing in our lives.

 We have faith and a hope that is sure, that He will keep His word and bring to pass all He has promised. We walk by faith and not by sight. Faith becomes our eyes to see where we were at and where God is taking us.

The child of God grows into a mature adult, having been raised up by the Spirit of God, feeding on the word of God, manifests the humility and character of their Father and God.

 **I Peter 5:5-7** ***“God resists the proud, but gives grace***

***to the humble.”***

Humility says, I depend on God my Father.

My confession is, Jesus is my Lord and Savior.

Faith says, in my Father, I am safe and secure.

All these blessings being made possible through the finished work of Christ. Now as believers we are one with our king. He has made His subjects joint heirs.

**Romans 6:1-8** ***“What should we say then? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may multiply? Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him by baptism, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in a new way of life. For if we have been joined with Him in the likeness of His death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of His resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that sin’s dominion over the body may be abolished, so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, since a person who died is freed from sin’s claims. Now if we died with Christ, we believe we will also live with Him”***

We are now one with Christ and His kingdom through His death, burial, and resurrection providing our victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. Praise the Lord!

**KINGDOM OF SATAN AND ITS CHILDREN**

**(The Entrance)**

All humans in the world past, present, and future who are not ***“born again”*** are subjects in the kingdom of Satan.

They were born in Satan’s kingdom.

The fall of Adam left Satan to build his own kingdom and have mankind as his children.

Many grow and become a major part of this kingdom. They feed on its foods, they drink from its waters, they become a product of Satan’s strategy.

**Ro. 3:23** ***“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”***

**Ephesians 2:1-3** ***“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you previously walked according to this worldly age, according to the ruler of the atmospheric domain, the spirit now working in the disobedient. We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and by nature we were children under wrath, as the others were also.”***

**Romans 5:18-19** ***“So then, as though one trespass there is condemnation for everyone, so also through one righteous act there is life-giving justification for everyone.***

***For just as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous,”***

**Note:** Jesus made some observations about the sin nature, and its roots, pointing them out to the people of His day. Let me use a few of His quotes,

**St. John 8:23a** ***“You are from below”***

***“You are of this world”***

**St. John 8:34** ***“Everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.”***

**St. John 8: 37** ***“You are trying to kill me because my word is not welcome among you.”***

**St. John 8:38b** ***“You do what you have heard from your father.”***

**St. John 8:41** ***“Your doing what your father does.”***

**St, John 8:44a** ***“You are of your father the devil.***

***And you want to carry out your fathers desirers.”***

**St. John 8:47** ***“The one who is from God listens to God’s words. This is why you don’t listen, because you are not from God.”***

**Note:** Here, Jesus expressed, “He is the light of the world,” and the religious, of His day, reject Him and His words. Jesus pointed out the nature of their rejection and its origin. He told them God was not their father; Satan was based on the fact they did not know of receive Him or His word. The spirit they were of, was the spirit of this world. Jesus said, this is the work of their father, Satan, who moves them to do his desires. This is accomplished through the fallen nature of mankind. Adam and Eve brought this about to every human being. Those who are not ***“born again”*** are living in darkness, under Satan’s influence and do as he desires. Jesus said He was from above and they were from below. He was pointing out their fallen nature and the desires of that nature. Only those who follow Him have the light of life, all others are in blinding darkness held captive by Satan in his kingdom. All were born after Adam’s fall in Satan’s kingdom and children thereof. The scriptures tell us plainly.

Men are groping in darkness!

Groping,

Def. to search or seek, to find something blindly, hesitantly, or uncertainly; to feel one’s way, as with the hands.

**Colossians 1:11-14** ***“may you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience, with joy giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saint’s inheritance in the light. He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”***

**Note:** Jesus broke the power of sin at the cross, enabling us to be free. We were rescued from darkness and brought into the light through the work of Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection. His place of ascension and exaltation, is now a place of intercession for the subjects in His kingdom.

On the other hand, Satan continues to hold those who have not accepted God’s plan of salvation to be set free.

They are still groping around in darkness, bound for the place prepared for Satan and his fallen angels. It would have been better to not to have been born into this world.

Rebellion and unbelief are the work of the kingdom of Satan. This rebellion is against God and His word.

Satan continues to hold people in bondage through unbelief due to the lies they have believed. Jesus expressed the truth to oppose Satan and his lies. The truth is the only means to freedom from the fall of mankind. The truth is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Note:** The people living in Satan’s kingdom are separated from God. Through the fall of mankind, spiritual death and separation from God is evident in the subjects of Satan’s kingdom.

Satan keeps his subjects very busy through the world, the flesh, and entertains them with many other devices. He keeps them filled with desires of the flesh, pride of life, and the lust of the eyes. The same thing that worked to deceive Adam and Eve still work to keep all their children deceived and imprisoned.

Satan’s kingdom is not made up of freedom and joy. It only appears that way in the beginning. The mind of his subjects are keep full of distortions, deceptions, and half-truths in order to attempt to keep them from what God has planned for those who hear the good news and believe. Life comes when their eyes are opened to the truth.

Until a person comes to Christ and is born again, that person is in gross darkness. They are separated from God. Unlike God’s kingdom where we become one with Christ, no longer separated from God, Satan’s subjects are separated and spiritually dead. Left hopeless and helpless without the saving knowledge of God’s Son, Jesus Christ and what He did for all of mankind at the cross of Calvary.