

EPSOM Module 7 – Week 1 Study Guide

The Kingdom of God

What is the Kingdom of God?

The Kingdom of God is the invisible rule and government of God over every area of a believer's life in the spiritual realm. The Kingdom of Heaven is the visible manifestation of that rule in the natural world (Matthew 4:17; Matthew 6:10).

- God's Kingdom is the original form of government, unlike human systems such as democracy or socialism.
- The central theme of Scripture is the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom through Jesus Christ in history.

God's Original Plan

From the beginning, God intended to establish His rule on earth through humanity.

- Genesis 1:1 – God created the heavens (His realm of rule) and the earth (where He would extend His rule).
- Genesis 1:26 – Humanity was created in God's image and given dominion.
- Dominion means responsibility, stewardship, and authority—not ownership (Psalm 24; Psalm 115:16).
- God designed His Kingdom to operate through people.
- God works through willing vessels and often limits His involvement unless invited.

The Garden of Eden

The Garden of Eden was the first example of heaven on earth.

- Eden was where God's presence and authority were fully expressed (Genesis 2:8–9).
- Adam was given the responsibility to tend the garden and expand God's rule across the earth.
- The tree of knowledge of good and evil represented a choice between God's rule and self-rule.

The Loss of the Kingdom

Humanity lost its original authority through disobedience.

- Adam disobeyed God (Genesis 3:6–8).
- Authority was handed over to the enemy (Luke 4:5–7).
- Humanity lost dominion and became subject to the earth (Genesis 3:17–19).
- Separation from God occurred (Genesis 3:24).

The Messiah and the Coming Kingdom

God promised restoration through the Messiah.

- Isaiah 9:6–7 prophesies a coming King.
- He would bring a government, not just religion.
- He would come with authority, not just tradition.
- His Kingdom will be eternal and continually increasing.

Jesus and the Gospel of the Kingdom

Jesus came to restore what was lost and reintroduce God’s Kingdom to humanity.

- Matthew 4:17 – “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- The Kingdom of God entered the natural world through Jesus.
- God took on flesh to establish His Kingdom in humanity.
- Jesus taught and demonstrated Kingdom living (Matthew 4:23–24).
- Through His death, burial, and resurrection, access to the Kingdom was restored.
- John 3:3 – One must be born again to see the Kingdom of God.

Demonstrations of the Kingdom

The Kingdom of God is not only taught—it is demonstrated with power.

1 Corinthians 4:20 – The Kingdom of God is not in word only but in power

Divine Healing

- Healing reveals the reality of God’s Kingdom.
- Sickness must leave where God’s rule is established (Matthew 12:15; Luke 4:40).
- Healing is a preview of the fully restored Kingdom to come.

Deliverance

- Luke 11:20 – Casting out demons proves the Kingdom has come.
- Darkness cannot remain where God rules.
- Deliverance shows the conflict between God's Kingdom and Satan's kingdom.

Divine Provision

- Matthew 6:33 – Seek first the Kingdom and all needs will be provided.
- God's Kingdom contains no lack (Philippians 4:17).

The Upside-Down Kingdom (Kingdom Values)

God's Kingdom is counter-cultural to man's systems and values.

Greatness in Serving (Matthew 20:25–28)

- The world defines greatness by power and position.
- The Kingdom defines greatness through serving others.
- Jesus modeled greatness through humble service and giving His life.
- Our goal is to reflect God's glory through service, not rule over others.
- Servants are the greatest in the Kingdom (1 Peter 4:10; John 13:14–15).

The Humble Are Exalted (Matthew 23:11–12)

- The world values power and status.
- The Kingdom values humility and service.
- Those who humble themselves are lifted up. (1 Peter 5:6)

Others Over Self (Philippians 2:3–4)

- The world promotes self-first thinking.
- The Kingdom teaches God first, others second, self-last.
- Selflessness reflects Kingdom character (John 15:13).

Motives Over Actions (Matthew 5:8)

- The world focuses on outward actions.
- God focuses on the heart and motives (1 Samuel 16:7).
- Pure motives are essential in Kingdom living.

Love for Enemies (Matthew 5:44)

- The world teaches revenge.
- The Kingdom teaches love, blessing, and forgiveness.
- Mercy and compassion define Kingdom citizens (Ephesians 4:32).

Winning Through Dying (Matthew 16:25)

- The world says protect your life.
- The Kingdom says surrender your life to find true life.
- Victory comes through sacrifice and obedience (John 10:17; Matthew 26:39).

Power Through Weakness (2 Corinthians 12:8–10)

- The world says power comes from enforcing your will.
- The Kingdom shows power through surrendering your will.
- The world values independence, strength, and control.
- God's power is revealed through humility, dependence, and trust.
- When we acknowledge our weakness, God's strength is made perfect.
- Refer: 1 Corinthians 1:27

Giving Over Receiving (Acts 20:35)

- The world says accumulate more.
- The Kingdom says give more.
- Kingdom citizens focus on what they can give rather than what they can gain.
- True blessing is not in possessing things, but in not being possessed by them.
- We are blessed to be a blessing (Luke 6:38).