THE GOSPEL OF JESUS AND HIS KINGDOM

GETTING THE BIG PICTURE OF THE BIBLE



I. What is the theme of the Bible?

"I suggest we look at the Old Testament as a history of redemption. In other words, the key to the Old Testament is not the part Israel plays - as important as that is - but the part that God plays in redeeming a people from slavery and making them his own... Nor is redemption the only theological idea which provides structure to the Old Testament, for redemption is a process which leads to a goal. Has not the Old Testament something to say about that goal? Indeed it has - the redeemed people of God are the people of God's kingdom. I would even suggest that this goal, the Kingdom of God, is a more central issue in the Old Testament than the redemptive process of bringing people into that Kingdom. Of course we cannot separate the two strictly. The process needs a goal; the goal has to have a process or method of attainment." *Gospel & Kingdom, Graeme Goldswortby, pages 46,47*

"Any unifying theme that is used to help us to see how the Bible fits together must arise out of Scripture itself, rather than being imposed upon it; and it must be broad enough to allow each part to make its own distinct contribution. The theme of the kingdom of God satisfies both requirements." God's Big Picture - Tracing the Storyline of the Bible, Vaughan Roberts, pages 20,21

II. What is the kingdom of God?

"The New Testament has a great deal to say about the Kingdom, but we may best understand this concept in terms of the relationship of rulers to subjects. That is, there is a king who *rules*, a people who are *ruled*, and a sphere where this rule is *recognized* as taking place. Put in another way, the kingdom of God involves:

(a) God's people (b) in God's place (c) under God's rule. "

Gospel es Kingdom, Graeme Goldsworthy, pages53,54

"That may sound like an overly simplistic definition for such a significant theme in Scripture, but the simple words contain great depth. God longs for human beings to enjoy an intimate relationship with him in his presence... To live under God's rule means to enjoy God's blessing; the two go together. That is what we see at the creation in the garden of Eden until the fall. But then human beings disobey God and forgo his blessing. The consequences are devastating not just for humanity but for the whole creation; everything is spoilt. But in his great love God promises to put everything right again and reestablish his kingdom on earth. The rest of the Bible tells the story of the fulfillment of that promise: partially in Israel's history in the Old Testament period, and then perfectly through Jesus Christ. So the Bible is about God's plan of salvation: his promise to restore his kingdom, and then the fulfillment of that promise through his son, Jesus."

God's Big Picture - Tracing the Storyline of the Bible, Vaughan Roberts, pages 21,22





	THE KINGDOM MESSAGE Seeing the Picture				
	The Kingdom Revealed	The Kingdom Rejected	THE KINGDOM RE-ESTABLISHED	THE KINGDOM REPRESENTED	
GOD'S PEOPLE					
in God's Place					
under God's Rule					
	Genesis 1,2	Genesis 3-11	Genesis 12 - Exodus 18	Exodus 19 - II Chronicles 36	

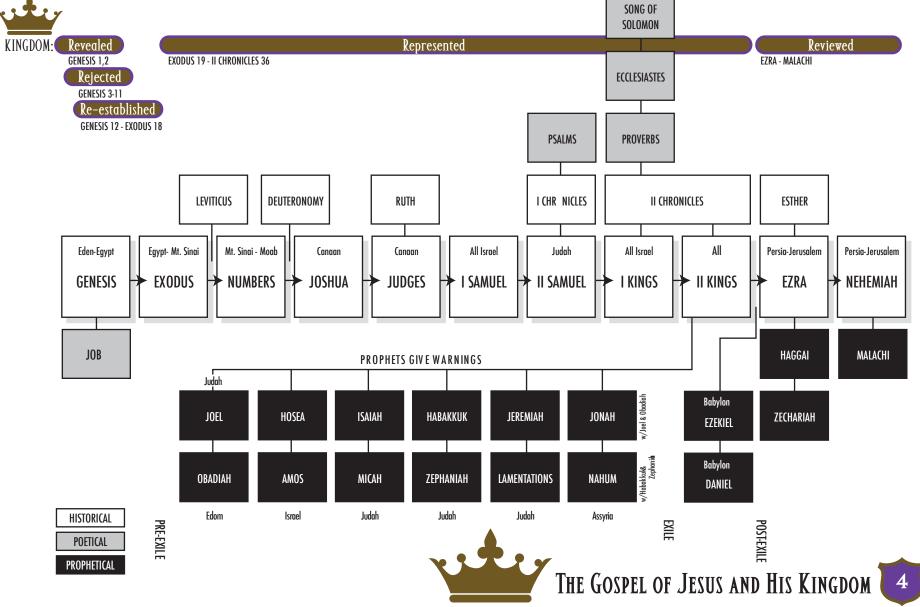




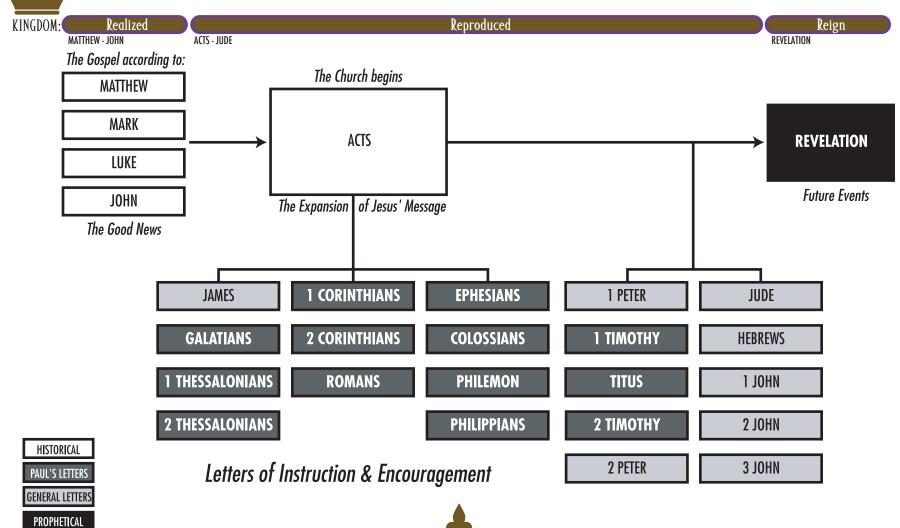
	The Kingdom Reviewed	THE KINGDOM REALIZED	THE KINGDOM REPRODUCED	The Kingdom Reign
God's People				
in God's Place				
under God's Rule				
	Ezra - Malachi	Matthew - John	Acts - Jude	Revelation



HISTORICAL HIGHWAY of the Old Testament



HISTORICAL HIGHWAY of the New Testament







III. The Kingdom Revealed - Genesis 1,2

In the garden of Eden, we are first introduced to the kingdom. God's people, Adam and Eve are living in God's place, a bountiful garden under God's rule. He is their loving Creator who provides for them and protects them as they obey the commands he has given.

"The creation story must never be regarded merely as a sort of biblical 'once-upon-a-time'. The fact that God is Creator and that man is his creature establishes at the outset the basis for understanding the Kingdom of God. When we speak of the sovereignty of God, we use a word which means his kingship, a kingship which is absolute and uncompromised. The creature is ruled and belongs, as a creature, within the sphere of God's perfect rule... The only perfect existence for the creature is that which is found within the framework of the rule of God." *Gospel es Kingdom, Graeme Goldsworthy, page 58*

IV. The Kingdom Rejected - Genesis 3-11

Adam and Eve make the fatal choice to reject God's rule on their lives by disobeying him. Their judgment is that they are sent from God's place and they and their descendants experience death spiritually (with God) relationally (with one another) and physically (with themselves). In it all God promises a champion who will restore his kingdom.

"...the 'knowledge of good and evil' refers not to simply knowing what is right and wrong, but rather to deciding what is right and wrong. Their sin is that of law-making, not just law-breaking. They were saying, 'From now, God, we want to be the law-makers in the world, setting the standards by which we will live.' It was a bid to be like God, but not in any noble sense. They were usurping his authority and establishing their independence. That has been the nature of sin ever since."

God's Big Picture - Tracing the Storyline of the Bible, Vaughan Roberts, page 39

"We need to distinguish here between the absolute sovereignty of God and the Kingdom of God. Neither man nor devil can escape the sovereign power of God, no matter how hard either may fight against it. In end all who rebel against the Creator will be forced to submit to the undeniable reality of God's lordship. But the Kingdom of God as the Bible reveals it is the sphere of God's rule in which his creatures submit willingly to this righteous rule. God's sovereign rule is universal; the Kingdom of God is not. There is hell as well as heaven, the world of darkness as well as the Kingdom of light."

Gospel es Kingdom, Graeme Goldsworthy, page 62

"That is what is meant by 'the kingdom of God'; not the area where he rules (for he always rules everywhere) but the sphere where his rule is gladly accepted."

God's Big Picture - Tracing the Storyline of the Bible, Vaughan Roberts, page 44



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V. The Kingdom Re-established - Genesis 12 - Exodus 18

God calls Abram and through him re-stablishes the kingdom. Abram is childless, landless and fruitless but God promises to establish a nation, with a land and rule over them as their God.

"God's promise to Abraham, expressed in Genesis 12 and subsequent chapters, provides one of the central themes of the Bible. The form of the promise described as covenant is essetially an agreement between parties. But this is no ordinary human covenant involving mutual consent of equals, but a lordly covenant dispensed by the gracious act of a God greatly offended and sinner against."

Gospel es Kingdom, Graeme Goldsworthy, page 52

"The most important thing about the history of Abraham is God's covenant promise. The whole narrative (Genesis 12-24 is dominated by the promises, which convey three main elements: a) Abraham's descendants would become a great nation (Genesis 12:2; 13:16; 15:5; 16:10; 18:18) b) These descendants would possess the promised land (Genesis 12:7; 13:14-15; 15:18-21; 17:8) and c) These descendants would be God's own people (Genesis 17:2, 7,8; 18:19."

Gospel & Kingdom, Graeme Goldsworthy, pages 67.68

Тнеме	Passage	Leadership	
God's people	Genesis 12 to Exodus 18	Patriarch	
God's rule and blessing	Exodus 19 to Leviticus	Priest/Prophet	
God's place/land	Numbers to Joshua	Priest/Prophet	
God's king	Judges to II Chronicles	Prince/Poet Prince/Prophet	

THE KINGDOM THEMES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

God's Big Picture - Tracing the Storyline of the Bible, Vaughan Roberts, page 60





VI. The Kingdom Represented - Exodus 19 - II Chronicles 36

After freeing his people from Egypt and giving them his law God begins to fulfill his promise to Abraham. Although the generation who was freed from Egypt did not make in their children were enabled to take the promised land and become a nation. Through a succession of leaders and especially under Kings David and Solomon they become a great kingdom. The kingdom splits after Solomon and the people's hearts are divided in following God.

"The law is given to the people of God after they become the people of God by grace. Sinai is dependent upon the covenant with Abraham and is an exposition of it. At Sinai God spells out for his people what it means to be the people of God... What he does tell them reflects in various ways his own character. It is their faithful response to the character of God that will demonstrate that they are his children."

"This interpretation is supported by recent studies into treaty formulations in the Ancient Near East. it has been demonstrated with a fair degree of certainty that the form of the decaloque, i.e. the Ten Commandments, and possibly even the whole book of Deuteronomy, is the same as the conventional form of treaty covenants imposed by conquering kings on the conquered. These treaties set out the stipulations which governed kings the life of the vassal people as members of the great kingdom. If the analogy of 'form' holds, the use of the form for the decalogue would be appropriate only if the law of Sinai was intended to be a covenant which stipulated the conditions imposed upon the people made subjects by the God of the covenant."

Gospel & Kingdom, Graeme Goldsworthy, page 75

"The account of this period of upheaval [the book of Judges] comes to an end with the significant statement: 'In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes' (Jdg 21:25). If this indicates that the author is looking back on these events from the time of the monarchy, it also indicates that he sees the monarchy as necessary to provide stability and order in Israel." *Gospel & Kingdom, Graeme Goldsworthy, pages 83*

"Both the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah move with gathering momentum towards a cataclysmic judgement of God upon their sinful rejection of the covenant. The final outcome of Solomon's apostasy is the obliteration of the natural existence of Israel. All that the covenant to Abraham had promised was under Solomon both realized and lost... In whatever sense the Kingdom of God is fulfilled in Solomon's reign, something is yet lacking. The pattern of Kingdom's existence is there, but its perfection is not. If the united Kingdom fulfills the covenant promises it does so only in shadow." *Gospel & Kingdom, Graeme Goldsworthy, pages 90*



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VII. The Kingdom Reviewed - Ezra - Malachi

The kingdom splits after the riegn of Solomon, Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Both kingdoms are much weakened by the split and never have the power of the unified kingdom. They are both ruled by a succession of kings and most of the kings do not rule well. After 200 years the northern kingdom is overtaken and assimilated by the Assyrians and a hundred years after that the southern kingdom is taken into captivity by the Babylonians. During this time God calls forth prophets to rebuke and warn his unfaithful people and their rulers while still offering hope to a faithful remnant.

"The relationship of prophet to king will persist throughout the monarchy in Israel, for the prophet is ever the guardian of the covenant of Sinai against which the lives of all Israelites are measured." *Gospel e3 Kingdom, Graeme Goldsworthy, page 85*

"For the purpose of our discussion we may divide the prophets of Israel into two main groups. The 'old order' prophets belong to the Kingdom of God as it is revealed in Israel's history. The definitive prophet of this era is Moses. (see Deut 18:15-22; 34:10-12)... [Also including Samuel, Nathan, Elijah and Elisha] All the prophets after Moses stand as the watchdogs of the society of God's people, working always within the framework of the covenant of Sinai. The prophets hold the law as a mirror so that individuals and the whole nation may see how they transgress. They call people back to faithful obedience to the covenant and, when necessary, denounce the unbelief and disobedience of their day. We may note that the first group contains the 'non-writing prophets while the second group contains the writing prophets. It is reasonable to ask why the later prophets, from Amos on, have their oracles preserved in books while the earlier ones are known only in the context of wider historical narratives. The answer may well lie partly in the fact that the writing prophets belong to a new epoch of revelation of the Kingdom of God and consequently there is a greater need for the new revelation to be preserved in a formal way. "

Gospel es Kingdom, Graeme Goldsworthy, pages 91,92





VIII. The Kingdom Realized - Matthew - John

After the passing of 400 years God raises up a new prophet in the spirit and power of Elijah to herald the way for God's chosen King. He has come to be the fulfillment of all God's promises and the hopes of all God's people. He the King of glory, God's only Son dies on a cruel cross to rescue lost humanity and create of them a kingdom of willing followers through his perfect sacrifice and triumphant resurrection.

"...the Kingdom of God was His chief concern, His constant inspiration, His abiding purpose, and His all-sufficient power. Follow Him through all the days of His public ministry, listen to every word that fell from His lips, accompany Him upon every journey that He took, watch every action of beneficence or of judgment; and in the light of the things He Himself said it becomes apparent that the reason for all speech and all action, for all journeys and all tarryings, for all pity and all anger, was the Kingdom of God. It was the master passion of His life, the fundamental conception of all His teaching and all His doing." *The Teaching of Christ, G. Campbell Morgan*

"It is important that we understand very clearly that this fact of the Old Testament's progression towards a fulfillment in the New is not merely an invitation to understand Jesus Christ as the end of the process. It is also a demand that the whole Bible be understood in the light of the gospel. It means that Jesus Christ is the key to the interpretation of the whole Bible... "

Gospel es Kingdom, Graeme Goldsworthy, page 105

"The unavoidable conclusion from the New Testament evidence is that the gospel fulfills the Old Testament hope of the coming of the Kingdom of God... That is to say that the coming of the Christ transforms all the Kingdom terms of the Old Testament into gospel reality. "

Gospel es Kingdom, Graeme Goldsworthy, page 108-110

"We have defined the Kingdom of God as God's people in God's place under God's rule. Now we discover that the New Testament sees the primary point of reference for each of these aspects in the Person of Jesus Christ. He is the true people of God, the true kingly sphere, and the true rule of God." *Gospel & Kingdom, Graeme Goldswortby, page 120-121*





IX. The Kingdom Reproduced - Acts - Jude

After Christ's resurrection he enlists his disciples to expand His kingdom. They move out empowered by His Spirit to bring the message of the kingdom to all the earth and to multiply the number of men and women who live under his kingdom rule.

X. The Kingdom Reign - Revelation

The fulfillment of Christ's Kingdom is yet to come. One day Christ will be fully recognized, worshipped and honored as King and God will bring into its fullness the reality of the Kingdom. All will acknowledge his kingship, those who enjoy the benefits of His Kingdom and those who are punished and who are separated from him forever.







- I. With the Kingdom of God theme as a backdrop, consider each of the following questions and write out how they should be considered in view of the kingdom.
 - A. What is the state of the non-believing world in relationship to the reality of the kingdom?

B. What should be our approach in evangelism in kingdom terms?

C. What does it mean to be a disciple and make disciples in light of the kingdom?

D. How do we recruit and train leaders who are kingdom-centered?





I. The State of the Other Kingdom

"Oswald Chambers observed: 'When the bible touches the question of sin, it always comes right down to to this incurable suspicion of God which cannot be altered aprart from the Atonement." *Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, page 24*

"From our perspective it seems fair to ask, 'Can we trust the Supreme Lord of the Universe?' But what we see as healthy, normal self-defense appears much different from God's point of view. From the divine perspective the central question is exactly the opposite. His concern is the unfaithfulness, disobedience, and stubborn rebellion found in every human heart. Will He ever find people who gladly accept His authority and faithfully follow His leadership?"

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, page 29

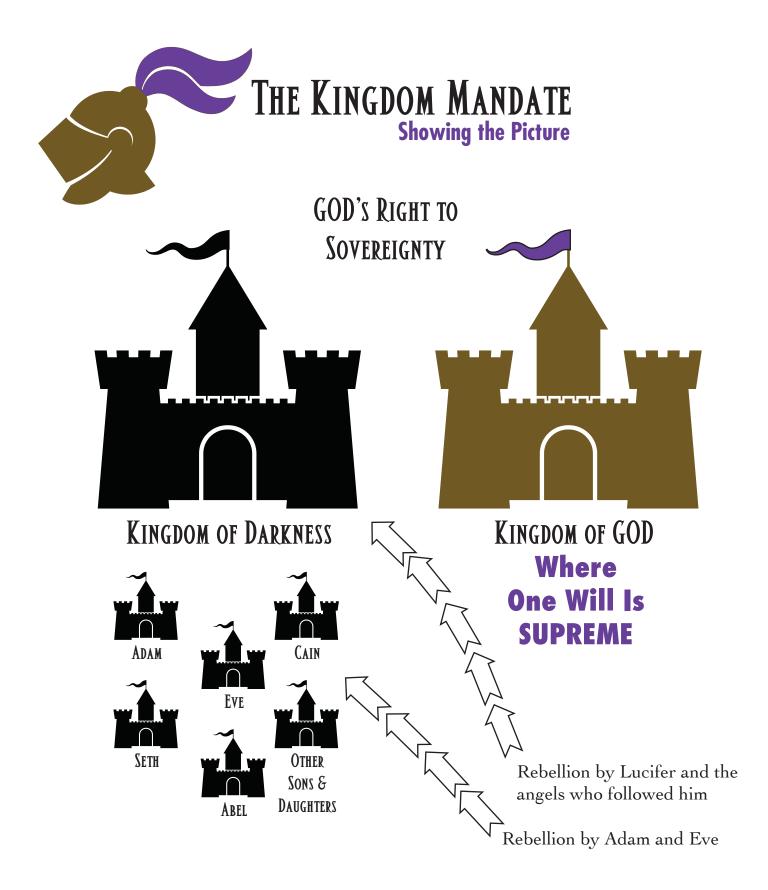
"From the headquarters of the universe we are treated to a glimpse of the big picture. Jesus has apparently been commissioned by God the Father to resolve the leadership crisis that currently exists in the universe. This glimpse into the behind-the-scenes job description of our great Savior and Lord reveals why He used "kingdom language" and insisted on repentance as the appropriate response to His message. He came to earth with the intent of ending the insurrection of mankind against the leadership of God! He came to conquer all opposition. That overriding purpose of God throws a floodlight of understanding upon the cross. Calvary was designed by the Father and executed by the Son as the essential means of restoring God's reign over His entire universe. "

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, pages 54-55

"The Holy Spirit has some favorite illustrations that are intended to reveal truth about God's relationship with His people... [Sheperd/Sheep, Potter/Clay, Head/Body, Vine/Branches] There is vital truth to be discovered in each of these illustrations. But the Holy Spirit uses one powerful word picture that is quite different from these: the revelation that God Himself is the King of the universe and all that is willingly in subjection to His leadership is regarded as His kingdom. This is not an illustration, a picture of something else. The kingdom is reality. it is the reason the "leadership issue" is at the heart of the written Word of God."

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, pages 118-119





Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, Diagram 3.1 , page 30







II. Evangelism as a Kingdom Reality

"We have forgotten that, according to Jesus, the arrival of the kingdom – the reign of God – is the gospel... The heart of the Christian gospel is Jesus' offer to be the leader we can trust – and His insistence that every believer become a follower He can trust."

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, page 21

"God chose the radical tactic of self-sacrifice to reveal that He is the leader we can trust... Above all, the message and significance of the cross is a leadership demonstration."

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, page 40

In answer to a question posed by Jan Hettinga to his family doctor as to why he ran so many tests. "The most difficult and complicated part of what I do is diagnosing the problem. If I am impulsive or hasty in assessing what's wrong with my patient, the prognosis or treatment I give might be useless and could well be dangerous!... For me, one of the strongest, deepest, most compelling reasons for believing the Bible is because it has the most accurate explanation for what is wrong with us. I have read the writings of other religions of the world, and one of the major differences between them and the Bible is the superficial way they explain sin."

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, page 76

"A church that has an incomplete understanding of sin won't understand sin to be a leadership or kingdom issue." *Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, page 78*

"The good news is that the dominion of God can be reestablished over human hearts. A way has been made. There is a door of entry – none other than Jesus Himself!" *Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, page 135*

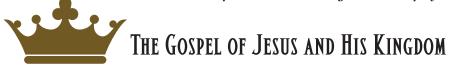
Louon nie Luper enee twe Loving Leuveronie of occus, our Durie Leuriga, page 199

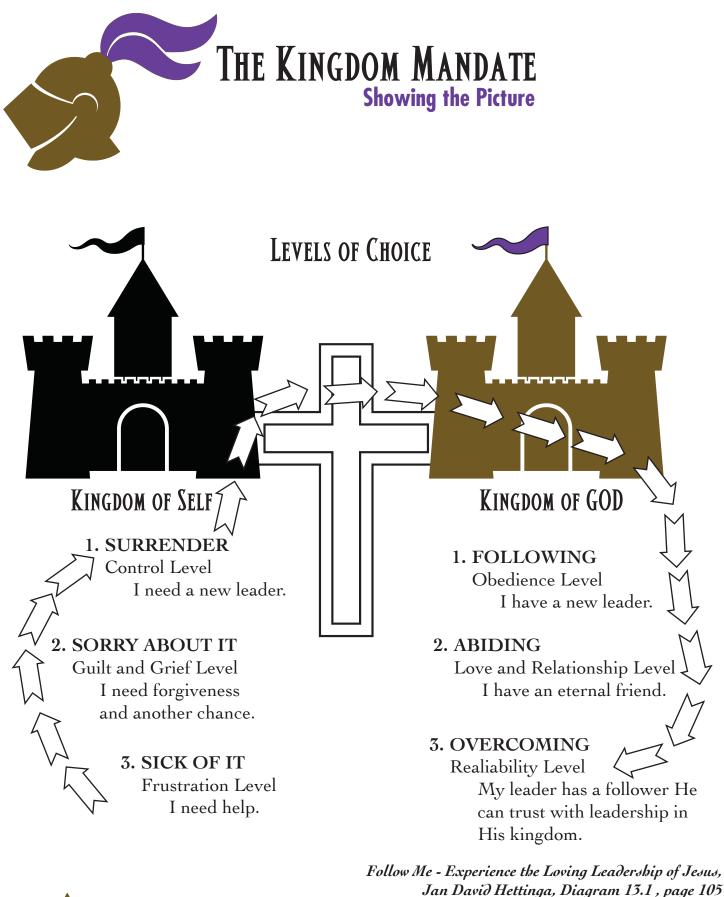
In reference to evangelism Hettinga states "I remember the day it dawned on me that Jesus never used the same approach with any two people. It was a shock."

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, page 155

"When I realized that announcing the terms of surrender to each individual, it began to make sense. He was confronting the issue that was keeping each of these people out of His kingdom. If you don't factor in Christ's preoccupation with the kingdom, His lack of a standardized approach is puzzling. But when His way of framing the issue as a God's-kingdom-versus-our-kingdom confrontation is understood, each distinctly individualized conversation begins to fall into a discernible pattern."

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, pages 156, 157









II. Discipleship in Light of the Kingdom

"...believing is a spectator sport. Following is what makes you a player." "Jesus is after followership. He is not merely interested in saving our souls, meeting our needs, and healing our hurts. Oh, He does that too, but His first concern is that we become kingdom players. He intends that we operate under His authority for the rest of our lives and for all eternity."

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, pages 23, 168

"The purpose of life is not to find your freedom but to find your Master, for when you find your Master you find your freedom." *P.T. Forsyth*

"Does Jesus really lay this deep claim on every life? Viewed through the lense of what western Christianity has become, you wouldn't think so – not if what we see around us is normative. But Jesus' claim to rule over the hearts of men was part of things from the beginning. He commonly allowed others address Him as 'Lord' – a word meaning 'master' and a covenant title in the Old Testament for God. He taught that obedience was the only proper response to His demanding teaching – not negotiation or a dash for the commentaries to get a second opinion. His command – 'Follow me' – challenged people to risk abandoning their most cherished dreams for the sake of His kingdom."

The Magnificient Obsession, David Swartz, pages 22-23

In referring to Christ's teaching his disciples to pray 'thy kingdom come'. R. Arthur Matthews observes "His kingdom cannot come until your kingdom goes."

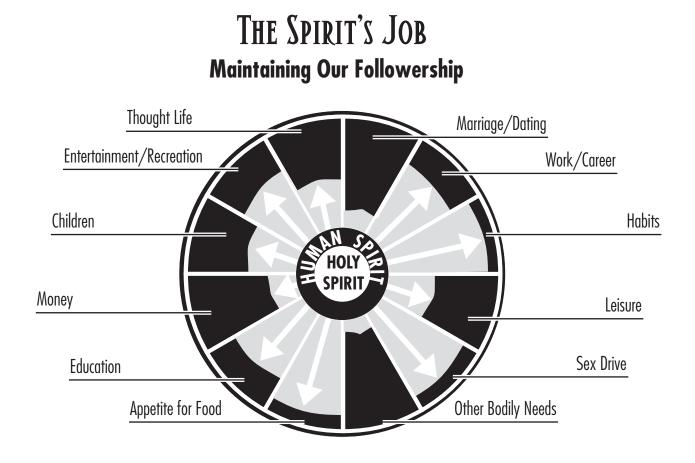
Born for Battle, R. Arthur Matthews

"The transformation process is severely weakened in those who accept salvation without understanding the significance of the kingdom component."

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, pages 136-137







Our Compartment Makeup

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, Diagram 20.2, page 179







II. Recruiting and Training Kingdom.centered Leaders

"The ultimate issue in the universe is leadership... Perhaps the most obvious observation one can make about the international scene today is that there is a shortage of leadership. Strong, capable, courageous, visionary leaders are sidestepping the opportunity to lead. There are some good reasons for this, the most troubling which is a scarcity of followers."

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, pages 17

"The most significant challenge kingdom leaders face is how to protect their followers from the remaining strongholds and blind spots left over from their old kingdoms of self."

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, page 206

In reference to I Corinthians 13 the author writes "What a warning! We're all capable of doing Christian ministry stuff in the energy of the flesh. We can be convincing and impressive. We can master the art of appearances. Our ability to wow our hearers can be brilliant. 'But,' Jesus explained, 'God looks on the heart, not the outward appearance.' The test is love. Not love measured by emotional profession or impressive activity, but love measured by consistent humble obedience."

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, page 241

"That brings me back to the embryo church in Acts 2. Here is a description of the main attraction in God's kingdom showcase. A healthy you church is doing what it does best – loving. This war relational integrity that stood the test of intense inspection. The ingredients of true kingdom community (see Acts 2:42-47) are clearly outlined."

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, page 248

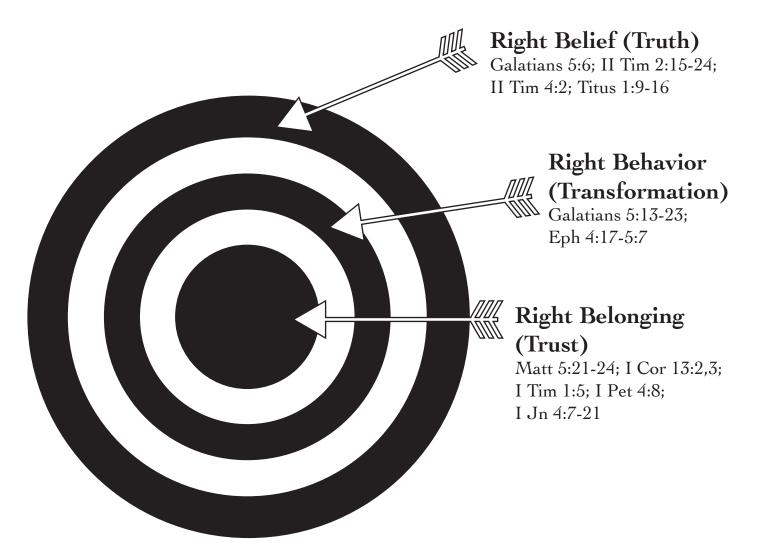
After visiting ministries in various countries and asking the question 'What is God doing in your country? Hettinga writes about the difference he saw in places where God was clearly working and where little was happening. "The main difference between the two was worship and prayer. Without exception, the work where the blessing of God was clearly evident was riding a wave of believing prayer and refreshing Spirit-empowered, Christ-exalting worship."

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, page 260





AIMING AT A BIBLICAL BULLSEYE



Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, Diagram 25.1 , page 228





OUR CALLING

To advance the gospel of Jesus and His kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost.





Gospel & Kingdom, Graeme Goldsworthy, Paternoster Press

God's Big Picture - Tracing the Storyline of the Bible, Vaughan Roberts, InterVarsity Press

Follow Me - Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus, Jan David Hettinga, NavPress

