

# KINGDOM FOUNDATIONS

## Part One

### Sin and Salvation

The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

Gen 2:15-17

"You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."

The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate it, too. At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness.

Gen 3:4-7 NLT

## I. Introduction to Summer Teaching Series: Foundations of the Kingdom

### A. Studying the Foundations of the Faith from a Kingdom Perspective

- Sin and Salvation
- Lordship
- Repentance
- Spiritual Gifts
- Spiritual Family/The Church
- Discipleship/Leadership
- The Word of God/Spiritual Hunger
- Worship
- Faith and Hope
- Stewardship/Giving
- Evangelism/World Missions
- Spiritual Warfare

This is a tremendous opportunity for new believers and "old-timers" to revisit these incredibly important doctrines through "Kingdom Glasses".

### B. The Perspective of a Kingdom-Driven Life

1. The first thing we need to remember: "kingdom" is a *governmental* term.
2. Types of government in the world today: democracies, republics, dictatorships, military juntas and monarchies.
3. Governments have "*authority*" which answers questions such as these:

- Who's in charge?"
  - Who makes the rules?
  - Whose word is final?
  - By what authority do you speak? (Who is author/originator of this?)
4. A kingdom is a king + his dominion or "domain". In a kingdom government, the king is in charge, makes the laws and has the final say.
5. This is why the most fundamental question one can ask is, "Do you believe in a created universe?" (A much larger question than "Do you believe in evolution?")
- a. This one question determines the entire playing field of any discussion.
  - b. If the universe is "created", there is a "Creator", and the "authority" in the creation is established.
  - c. If one does not believe in a created universe, all sensible discussion ends, because there can be no conclusions drawn from "chaos".

### **C. Biblical Presuppositions**

1. Since the Bible purports to be written by God Himself, His authority is assumed.

"In the beginning, God created..."

2. From this opening statement we see:

- A pre-existent Being called "God"
- Who chose to create everything created
- Who, as Creator, has absolute authority of definition

3. All rests on this. Only by faith can one proceed further.

The foundational challenge is not: "If I can understand, then I'll believe".  
The foundational premise is: "If you can believe, then you will understand".

## **II. What Went Wrong?**

### **A. Man Is "Lost"**

1. When we realize we are "lost", our first instinct is to try to get back to the last place where we knew we were OK. The same principle applies to the "lostness" of man.
2. Man was created upright and walked in fellowship with God. (Ecclesiastes 7:29)
3. "Sin" entered the picture before the first child was born. "Lost" parents produce "lost" children.

4. The term “sin” literally means “to miss the mark” or “to fall short”\*.

*\*The English term sin was from the sport of archery. When an arrow missed the target or fell short, the attendant would shout “sin”, so the bowman would know he had made a mistake.*

5. “Death”, in Kingdom definition, is not “cessation of existence”, but rather “separation from God.”

**“Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:**

**But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”**

**Isaiah 59:102 KJV**

**“Listen! The Lord's arm is not too weak to save you,  
nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call.**

**It's your sins that have cut you off from God.**

**Because of your sins, he has turned away...”**

**Isaiah 59:1-2 NLT**

- a. “iniquities”=“lawlessness”, a violation of limits set by proper authority
- b. “sins”=trespasses, intentionally crossing over clear boundaries

6. Once we see the *enormity* of sin and its consequences, all other questions are easily answered!

- Why is there so much evil and suffering in the world?
- Why is man so mean to fellow men?

7. Man’s refusal to accept the King (God) and His Kingdom (laws) means he becomes a law unto himself:

**In those days, there was no King in Israel;  
every man did that which was right in his own eyes.**

**Judges 21:25 KJV**

8. The anger of God does not fall because man does not “know” the truth, but that he “holds back the truth”, choosing to believe a lie:

**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**

**Romans 1:18 NASB**

## **B. God: The Seeker of the Lost**

1. It’s become quite fashionable these days to refer to “lost” people as “seekers”. We don’t quibble with that, but it’s not technically true.

**...for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;**

**As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:**

**There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.**

**They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.  
Romans 3:9-12 KJV**

2. Man is not just lost, he is very lost!
3. But there is One Who is seeking the sinner!

**This day is salvation come to this house, for so much as he also is a son of Abraham.  
For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.  
Luke 19:9-10 KJV**

4. Jesus equates the “lost” being “found” to salvation!

**So Jesus told them this story: "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. 6 When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!  
Luke 15:3-7 NLT**

5. The name “Jesus”, in Hebrew, means “Savior”:

**And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.  
Matthew 1:21 KJV**

**He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the very corner stone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.  
Acts 4:11-12 NASB**

### **C. We Are Saved from Our Sins**

1. The *penalty* of sin
2. The *power* of sin
3. And (ultimately) the very *presence* of sin!

**...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?  
Hebrews 2:3 NASB**

## **III. The Great Sin**

### **A. The Sin of Independent Learning**

1. The one tree forbidden our first parents was the tree of knowledge.
2. The “knowledge of good and evil” belongs only to God! Only the “King” has the authority to define! Only His word is final, because only He is “in charge”.
3. The great sin of Adam and Eve (and us today) is seeking to BE God (King); and the primary expression of this sinful nature is to seek independent knowledge!\*

\*We are commanded to seek knowledge and wisdom. There is no sin in wanting to learn and discover. But to seek such knowledge and wisdom independent of God's word is gross sin!

4. To presume to know more than God is high treason against the King, Whose "law-word" cannot be disobeyed without penalty of death.

### **B. Repent! For The Kingdom of God Has Come Near**

1. The issue is always the *belief system* held in the mind.
2. When the Kingdom comes near, repentance is the only proper response.
3. Our salvation depends on it! This is how God saves us:

From sin's penalty-spirit  
From sin's power-soul  
From sin's presence-body

4. How, indeed, shall we escape, if we neglect such a great salvation!!!