

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

Part V

Luke 10:19-20

Introduction: As we proceed in this continuum, we are going to exoterically investigate the kingdom of God. Since we are bona fide individual members of His kingdom here on earth, we should be acquainted with its plethora of truth including its inception, its purpose, and its "bill of rights." There is no more exponential calling than serving faithfully in the kingdom of God.

- I. The kingdom of God
 - A. The kingdom of God is both an authority (reign) and a place (realm). It is the kingly rule of God over all persons, places, and things.
 1. The doctrine of the kingdom begins in the Old Testament. The prophets of old spoke of the kingdom. Psalms 103:19; Daniel 2:44, 7:27.
 - B. The kingdom announced in the New Testament
 1. John the Baptist was the first herald of the kingdom in the New Testament. Matthew 3:1-2.
 2. Jesus, like John the Baptist, began His earthly ministry by preaching the kingdom of God.
 - a. While John did not know when the "*visitation*" of God in His kingdom would begin, Jesus said, "*the time is fulfilled*" – it has already started. Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:43; Matthew 4:17, 23.
 - b. Jesus is the King of the kingdom. 1st Timothy 1:17, 6:13-15.
 - 1) Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy about the king of Israel when he made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. John 12:15.
 - 2) Jesus was the King. Therefore His ministry was a kingdom ministry.
- II. The ministry of King Jesus
 - A. Let us look at what He did in His ministry.
 1. In Nazareth, He read the prophecy of Isaiah about the Messiah-King and claimed this ministry His own. Luke 4:17-19, 21.
 2. When John the Baptist sent messengers to inquire of Jesus, He sent back proof of His ministry. Matthew 11:4-5.
 3. When Jesus was casting out demons, He was doing the work of the kingdom. Matthew 12:28.
 - a. *Why is the* ministry of casting out demons important to the kingdom of God?
 - 1) When demons are in control, they work against God's authority. The ability to cast them out demonstrates the power and presence of the kingdom of God over demons. Luke 11:20-22.
 - b. Three areas in the life of Jesus reveal His deep concern for the kingdom of God.
 - 1) One of His greatest sermons, the Sermon on the Mount, was directed to the citizens of the kingdom of God.
 - 2) His parables were told to illustrate (picture) the kingdom.
 - 3) His miracles were done to show the nature and character of the kingdom.
 - a) The Sermon on the Mount declared the laws of the kingdom.
 - b) The parables of Jesus were earthly stories with a spiritual meaning.
 - c) The miracles of Jesus show his power over Satan and his works. John 10:37-38.
 - III. The authority and power that God has given to us equip us to manage the kingdom of God on earth while Jesus is in Heaven.
 - A. The devil is no match for the enlightened, equipped, Spirit-filled believer. Matthew 16:18. The Amplified version puts it this way: "*And I tell you, you are Peter [Greek, Petros - a large piece of rock], and on this rock [Greek, petra - a huge rock like Gibraltar], I will build My church, and the gates of Hades (the powers of the infernal region) shall not overpower it [or be strong to its detriment or hold out against it].*"
 1. John 14:12
 2. Ephesians 1:23, 4:14-32; Philippians 3:12-14.

Conclusion: God's time-clock is striking the hour when He is calling for "all hands on deck." It is time for you and me to take our positions and prepare for an all-out offensive against the devil. If we will remember who we are in Him, and use His Word as our sword, and depend on the Holy Spirit to empower us, nothing will be impossible to us. We can make a difference in our generation!