



THE
KINGDOM
of
POWER

HOW TO DEMONSTRATE IT
HERE & NOW

GUILLERMO MALDONADO

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THE KINGDOM *of* POWER

HOW TO DEMONSTRATE IT
HERE & NOW

GUILLERMO MALDONADO



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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The definition of *supernatural* is taken from *Merriam Webster's 11th Collegiate Dictionary*, electronic version, © 2003, s.v. "supernatural," "super-."

The Kingdom of Power:

How to Demonstrate It Here and Now

(Spirit-Led Bible Study)

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www.ERJPub.org

ISBN: 978-1-60374-885-8

eBook ISBN: 978-1-60374-887-2

Printed in the United States of America

© 2013 by Guillermo Maldonado

Whitaker House

1030 Hunt Valley Circle

New Kensington, PA 15068

www.whitakerhouse.com

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About the Spirit-Led Bible Study Series

The Spirit-Led Bible Study series is a collection of diverse, stand-alone Bible studies designed for either individuals or groups. Each self-study course features either a scriptural theme or a particular book of the Bible. Readers can go beyond just reading the Bible to become engaged in its truths and principles, learning to apply them to everyday life in practical ways while growing in their understanding of God and deepening their relationship with Him. Jesus said, *“When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth”* (John 16:13). Readers are encouraged to recognize that it is only through the indwelling Holy Spirit that we may truly understand the Scriptures and exhibit the life of Christ in our lives, and that we must intentionally rely on the Spirit in all our reading and study of the Bible.

Introduction

God is the Supreme Ruler of the universe, including our world, and He wants us to be active participants in spreading His kingdom on earth. “*The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein*” (Psalm 24:1). The kingdom of God is the life of God exercising its influence as the power of the Holy Spirit works through our humanity. Wherever God’s kingdom governs, it is visibly demonstrated, and every work of Satan must depart because darkness cannot remain in the same territory occupied by God’s light.

Many of us have heard teachings or read books about the kingdom of God, yet few of us have had a deep revelation and understanding of what it is, so we miss out on its truths and benefits. We fail to understand its potency for changing lives.

The Kingdom and the Church

To understand the kingdom of God, we must first realize that it is not the same thing as the church. Jesus spoke of the kingdom more than one hundred times, while He referred to the church only twice. Following His crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus remained on earth for forty days before ascending to heaven. What did He do during this time? He instructed His disciples *about the kingdom*. (See Acts 1:3.) Jesus is God the Son (fully God and fully Man), and after He fulfilled His mission on earth, God the Father established Him as Ruler over the world. As it says in Revelation 11:15, “*The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!*” God gave Jesus all authority in heaven and on earth. (See Matthew 28:18.) He is our Lord and King, and through Him, the kingdom of God is spread throughout the world.

The church is composed of those who have been redeemed through the death and resurrection of Jesus and who are called to expand His kingdom, just as Jesus did when He lived on the earth. God’s invisible, eternal, and supernatural realm impacts the visible, temporal, and natural world by means of men and women who are born by the Spirit into His kingdom. The church is not the kingdom but rather the *agency* through which the kingdom is extended.

The kingdom of God is the manifestation of the spiritual realm that demonstrates His lordship, dominion, and will on earth.

The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven

Another misunderstanding about the kingdom is the meaning of the phrase “kingdom of God” versus the phrase “kingdom of heaven.” In Scripture, these phrases are often used interchangeably. Yet, even though they are similar, I believe each implies something specific. The kingdom of heaven is a spiritual location called “heaven,” from which God rules and influences the earth and the entire universe. This is God’s dwelling place, or atmosphere, where His throne, court of angels, elders, and so forth are found. (See, for example, Revelation 4:9–10.) The Father’s seat of glory and power is surrounded by “*unapproachable light*” (1 Timothy 6:16).

The kingdom of heaven is invisible, but it impacts the visible world as the kingdom of God. Everything that takes place on earth to advance the kingdom must first be revealed, declared, and decreed in heaven. The kingdom of God extends the dominion and authority of the King to the world. It is the realm where His will is obeyed, producing a heaven on earth. For example, each time Jesus

announced the good news of the kingdom, sickness, sin, demons, poverty, and death could not remain.

The kingdom of God flows in us and through us by the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit, especially as we learn how the kingdom functions and as we act on its principles. We must light the way for people to see the kingdom of God, so they may experience the arrival of the kingdom in their own lives and receive personal transformation, healings, and miracles.

These Bible studies are not based on theories but rather on knowledge gained from personal experience. Everything that I teach in these pages, our ministry has experienced. Thousands of people have seen and heard the manifestations of God's kingdom through our ministry. In this course, you, too, will discover the nature of God's kingdom of power and learn how to enter into it so that you may see it demonstrated *today*—in the here and now!

How to Use This Study

Introduction

Welcome to *The Kingdom of Power*, one of the courses in the Spirit-Led Bible Study series. We are delighted that you have made the decision to dig deeper into God's Word. This course is designed as a stand-alone biblical study on the theme of God's kingdom in the now. The study may be completed independently by individual students, or it may be used in a group setting, such as a Bible study, a Sunday school class, a course on the foundations of the Christian faith, or a prayer group. For those who have read the author's book *The Kingdom of Power: How to Demonstrate It Here and Now* (Whitaker House, 2013), these studies will reinforce its major themes while providing further scriptural study and application of the topic.

Elements of Each Study

(Note: All the elements, combined, lead to a comprehensive understanding of the topics in the studies, so the student should endeavor to read and respond to each one.)

Scripture Verse or Passage

Each study begins with a Scripture verse or passage that highlights the topic.

Introduction

The author provides background, context, and/or other relevant information to set the stage for the lesson that follows.

Study Questions

Each study includes approximately 15 questions, with some questions having multiple parts. The questions are organized under sections that emphasize particular aspects of the topic. Each question is followed by a corresponding Scripture reference in parentheses that enables the student to answer it. If a Scripture reference has *a* or *b* after it (e.g., "John 3:16a" or "John 3:16b"), this means the answer is found in the first part of the verse, "a," or the second part, "b." The student should read the Bible verse or passage and then write the answer on the line(s) provided.

Reflections

Each lesson includes insights that the author has gleaned from his experiences with the kingdom of God in ministry or his study of the theme of the kingdom in God's Word. For example, the first study features "Reflections on the Kingdom as the Eternal Now."

Key Definitions

Definitions and explanations of key concepts related to the kingdom of God are provided at various points throughout the studies.

Thought-Provoking Statements

Periodically, statements for personal reflection are presented in bold italics.

Conclusion

At the end of each study, the author sums up the topic, provides additional information, and/or offers a challenge to the student.

Prayer of Activation

A prayer is provided to activate the student to live out the principles in the lesson, being spiritually empowered to serve God and expand His kingdom in the world. Group leaders are encouraged to offer the prayer on behalf of the students, while the individual student is encouraged to pray the prayer for himself or herself. (Individual students should adapt the prayers to the first-person singular.)

Action Steps

Action steps are listed to enable the student to apply the lesson to his or her life in practical ways.

Encounters with God's Kingdom

Each study concludes with a testimony about someone who has had a life-changing encounter with the power of God's kingdom. These testimonies come from the author's church, King Jesus Ministry, in Miami, Florida; affiliated churches; or the author's other ministry experiences.

Study Helps

Bible Version

The main Bible translation used for this study is the *New King James Version*. Other Bible translations are used periodically, and they are designated as follows:

(kjv): King James Version

(niv): *New International Version*

(nlt): *New Living Translation*

Answer Key

At the back of this book, answers to the study questions are listed under the titles of the studies in the Answer Key section. In addition, the various section titles for each study are included for easy reference. The student's answers should reflect the content of those provided in the Answer Key, although the wording may differ in varying degrees, depending on the nature of the question.

Study 1

The Kingdom of God Is Within You

“The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”

—Luke 17:20–21

Introduction

A kingdom is the influence, dominion, will, and lordship of a king or prince over a certain territory for the purpose of governing its inhabitants. There can be no king without a dominion and subjects. The kingdom from heaven—the kingdom of God—is His realm and His foundation of power manifested on earth, and it is a reality that we can receive and enjoy today. It is His dominion and lordship, in which He establishes His will here and now through the redeeming work of His Son Jesus Christ in the lives of His people. God governs over earthly territories, entities, and human beings; He rules over sickness, poverty, and oppression. He is sovereign over His spiritual enemy, Satan (the devil), who seeks to promote his realm of darkness in the world to counteract God’s kingdom of light. Jesus brought God’s kingdom to earth, and God calls believers, as the church, to continue to expand His reign in the world through our authority in Christ and our power in the Holy Spirit.

Study Questions

Part I: A Kingdom Bestowed from Heaven

1. What was the message Jesus proclaimed as He began His ministry? (Matthew 4:17b)
2. God’s kingdom and Jesus’ kingdom are one and the same. What did Jesus say about His kingdom, revealing that it did not have its origins in an earthly realm but in a heavenly, supernatural one? Complete the following:

(a) John 18:36a: “*My kingdom is _____.*”

(b) John 18:36b: “*...My kingdom is _____.*”

Key Definition: The Greek word for “kingdom” in the New Testament is *basileia*, which means “royalty,” “rule,” “a realm” (strong, G932), or “sovereignty,” “royal power” (nasc, G932). It comes from the root word *basileus*, which relates to the idea of a “foundation of power” (strong, G935).

3. What did Jesus say is our heavenly Father’s good pleasure to give us? (Luke 12:32)
4. When some religious leaders asked Jesus when the kingdom of God would come, what did Jesus reply? (Luke 17:21b)

The kingdom of God must first come within us, so that it may be manifested externally.

REFLECTIONS ON THE KINGDOM AS THE ETERNAL NOW

When Jesus preached about the kingdom, He referred to it mainly in the here and now, saying that it “*has come upon you*” (Matthew 12:28), “*has arrived among you*” (verse 28 nlt), or “*is at hand*”

(Matthew 4:17). He taught relatively little about the kingdom as the eternal future. He expressed the concept as a present reality, where there is no past or future—just an eternal now. Jesus said that the kingdom was “*at hand*” because heaven was on earth. He didn’t tell people to wait for death to enjoy the kingdom in heaven; His message was that the kingdom had arrived and could be received now! Being forgiven of our sin through Christ is just an entryway into God’s kingdom, which is infinite, eternal, and of unlimited power. The kingdom brings everything each human being needs, such as salvation, healing, deliverance, prosperity, and purpose. It is to be experienced today, and it is to be applied to each circumstance we are undergoing at this moment.

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