

Advanced Kingdom Leadership Course

Module 1

Session Three: The Theology of the Kingdom of God

Overview

This session introduces the concept of the Kingdom of God as the central theme of Scripture and the foundation for understanding leadership in the Kingdom. Jesus' ministry, message, and mission all revolved around the arrival and expansion of God's Kingdom on the earth.

1. Understanding the Theology of the Kingdom

The theology of the Kingdom provides a framework for understanding the Bible as a unified story.

It emphasizes the rule and reign of God and the restoration of His authority on the earth.

Many theologians and leaders have taught extensively on the Kingdom of God, helping believers organize their understanding of Scripture around this central theme.

2. The Beginning of Jesus' Ministry

Jesus lived in relative obscurity for approximately thirty years before beginning His public ministry.

His ministry began when He came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist.

At His baptism three important events occurred:

- Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River.
- The Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove.
- The Father spoke from heaven saying, 'This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.'

This moment revealed the relationship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and marked the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

3. The Temptation in the Wilderness

After His baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness where He fasted for forty days and nights.

During this time the enemy tempted Him three times.

The temptations challenged Jesus' identity as the Son of God:

- Turning stones into bread
- Throwing Himself from the temple
- Worshiping the enemy in exchange for the kingdoms of the world

Each temptation attempted to cause Jesus to misuse His authority or take a shortcut to His mission.

Jesus resisted each temptation by responding with Scripture and remaining faithful to God's plan.

4. The Announcement of the Kingdom

After overcoming the temptations, Jesus began His ministry with a powerful declaration:

'Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.' (Matthew 4:17)

This statement meant that the King had arrived and God's Kingdom was now being revealed in a new way.

5. The Gospel of the Kingdom

The message of Jesus was not only the message of personal salvation, but the broader message of the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of the Kingdom tells the story of God's redemptive plan:

- God created the world and declared it good.
- Humanity was given authority to steward the earth.
- Through sin, humanity surrendered authority and brought corruption into creation.
- God initiated a plan to restore humanity and reclaim the earth.

6. The Redemptive Plan of God

God's redemptive plan began with Abraham.

In Genesis 12, God promised that through Abraham's descendants all nations of the earth would be blessed.

This promise led to the formation of the nation of Israel.

Israel was set apart so that God could reveal Himself through them and ultimately bring the Messiah into the world.

The story continues through the patriarchs, the Exodus, the prophets, and the kings of Israel until the coming of Jesus.

7. The Fulfillment in Jesus

Jesus came as the fulfillment of the prophetic promises.

He demonstrated the reality of the Kingdom through His actions:

- Healing the sick
- Casting out demons
- Raising the dead
- Performing miracles

These acts showed that God's rule and authority were breaking into the world.

8. The Mission of the Church

After His resurrection, Jesus commissioned His followers to continue the work of the Kingdom.

Believers are called to extend the Kingdom by making disciples and teaching others to follow Christ.

This responsibility explains why every believer is called to leadership.

Christians serve as ambassadors of the Kingdom, representing God's authority and influence on the earth.

Questions

1. How does understanding the Kingdom of God help you interpret the message of the Bible?
2. Why do you think Jesus emphasized the Kingdom of God throughout His ministry?
3. In what ways can you live as an ambassador of God's Kingdom in your daily life?

Activations

- Reflect on the message 'The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand' and write what it means for your life.
- Ask God to help you understand your role in advancing His Kingdom.
- Identify one practical way you can demonstrate Kingdom values in your current sphere of influence.