

MESSAGE TITLE:

GOD'S KINGDOM IS NOW!

GOOD MORNING!

Today's message is titled: **GOD'S KINGDOM IS NOW!**

This continues this year's theme of **YOUR KINGDOM COME**.

The scripture text for today is **Psalm 103:19**

Psalm 103:19 - The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Context – Psalm 103

Ultimately, the full context of this Psalm is unknown, but clearly David begins this psalm by blessing the Lord and to remember all His benefits. This is one of many psalms of praise given to the Lord. Psalm 103 was written by King David, and it expresses his gratitude to the Lord for all His benefits. David experienced much within his own life. David goes on to list some of the benefits such as forgiveness, restored health, deliverance, love, satisfaction, and renewed energy.

In the middle of this psalm, David recalls the Lord's righteous deeds and justice.

Then David goes on to examine man's fleeting life. He knows that the Lord's love and righteousness extends from generation after generation to those who obey Him. God is sovereign. His throne is settled in the heavens, and His kingdom has power.

David concludes with a call to the Lord's angels and all His creation to praise Him. David addresses his closing words to his soul, commanding his soul to praise the Lord.

Let's examine the profound truth expressed in Psalm 103:19. This verse declares that the Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules overall. As we will see, a portion of God's glorious Kingdom is upon us now, but there is more to come. So much more! There are many scripture references to God's throne in the heavens.

Psalm 11:4 - The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.

Psalm 47:8 - God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

Isaiah 66:1 - Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?"

These words resound throughout history, and these words are still true today. This psalm reminds us of the enduring sovereignty and majesty of God's Kingdom. It is not fleeting. This affirms that God's sovereignty is not temporary or uncertain but firmly established in the heavenly realms. His throne symbolizes His authority, majesty, and rulership over all

creation. This truth reminds us that God is not a distant deity, but a reigning King intimately involved in our lives and world.

Over time, we have seen kings and kingdoms come and go. Those kings always believe that they are worthy of honor and homage is to be paid. Yet, even the best of kings in history failed in one main area. They did not hold to the principle that God is Sovereign and His reign is forever. When this occurs, corruption and poor judgment sets in. Eventually, those kingdoms crumble.

As we look closer into this theme of God's Kingdom, we must open our hearts and minds to receive the wisdom and grace that God offers through His Word. We must hold fast to God's Kingdom with humility and reverence and awe. If we know the Lord even a little bit, how can we act in any other fashion?

Psalm 103:19 begins with a powerful affirmation of God's eternal reign. If you stop and reflect on the image of God's throne, we can see that His throne symbolizes His ultimate authority. Kings sit on thrones. Kings rule and reign; however, most do not do so in righteousness with a nature that is unchanging.

A key distinction is that unlike earthly thrones that rise and fall, God's throne is established in the heavens. God's throne is beyond the limitations of time and space. These eternal characteristics of God's Kingdom reassures us of His steadfastness and faithfulness in every season of life. Again, this not some short-lived expression of what a king should be, this is the ultimate expression of Kingdoms. God's Kingdom is above all kingdoms. It is eternal. It is worthy of honor and praise. It is enduring. It is powerful. It is like nothing we have ever seen.

Application: How often do you think about God's Kingdom? If so, what comes to your mind and heart?

I would submit that if you reflect on God's Kingdom with the awe and reverence it deserves, your entire outlook on life would change. You would stop thinking of this world as your kingdom. You would take the focus off yourself and humbly place the focus on an all-powerful God of the Universe.

Do you think that maybe the world would be a better place if this is how people lived each day in constant recognition and realization that this world is a part of something far bigger than we can comprehend? That each of us is a small part of God's creation, but even so,

God's cares about us and loves us right now. That I still can't quite wrap my head around. The Kingdom is constant and perpetual, yet it is on display.

To take this point further, let's analyze the second part of Psalm 103:19 which proclaims that God's kingdom rules overall. This statement carries profound implications for our understanding of God's sovereignty. His rule extends over the entire universe, encompassing both the seen and unseen realms. Nothing is outside the scope of His authority, and His purposes are ultimately fulfilled according to His divine plan.

God's Kingdom is Now!

The message of Psalm 103:19 resonates deeply with us as we navigate life's challenges and joys, knowing that God's kingdom is not just a distant future hope but a present reality that shapes our lives.

The verse continues, "and his kingdom rules overall." Here, we see the active reign of God's kingdom, extending beyond mere existence to governance. God's rule is comprehensive, touching every aspect of creation, from the stars in the sky to the intricacies of our daily lives. This rule encompasses justice, righteousness, and love, offering hope and stability in a world often marked by turmoil and uncertainty.

Examples of God's Kingdom being a present reality are all throughout scripture as well.

Luke 17:20-21-

20 Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed,
21 nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.
Jesus teaches the Pharisees that the Kingdom of God is present after healing a man's hand on the Sabbath in the Temple.

Matthew 12: 28 - But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Believed to be the same man in Luke where Jesus addresses the presence of God's Kingdom

Luke 11:20 - But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

God's Kingdom is not fully known and there is still so much more yet to come. It is still a profound mystery. While we have seen glimpses, the fullness of God's Kingdom has not been fully revealed. The kingdom now is limited in its scope and its overall effects. The power of God's kingdom draws many in; however, many will be cast out in the end because they loved healing and not the healer.

Matthew 7: 21-22 –

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

There will be many who want the saving but not necessarily the Savior. There will be many who are focused on the power of God, but not the purity. Many will want the actions of an all-powerful God, but not the heart of Our Creator. There will be many love the wonders of God, but not the will of God.

Matthew 13:10-11 –

10 Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?"

11 And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

God's Kingdom will come in all of its fullness as Jesus taught in the Parable of the Ten Minas.

Luke 19:11-12- As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. 12 He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return.

This is a clear reference to Jesus' return in the future. The fullness of God's Kingdom is present yet. In that parable, the nobleman was to return, and the expectation was that those working for him ought "engage in business on he returns." We must get the "business" of God done now.

Application: What are the implications for our faith that God's Kingdom is Now?

When we come to an understanding of the present reality of God's kingdom, that understanding has profound implications for our faith journey. It reminds us to:

Trust in God's sovereignty: Even in challenging times, we can rest in the assurance that God is in control, working all things for His purposes.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Seek His kingdom first: Jesus exhorted us to prioritize God's kingdom above all else. This means aligning our priorities, values, and actions with God's will and purposes.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Romans 12:1-2

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Participate in kingdom work: As citizens of God's kingdom, we're called to be agents of His love, justice, and reconciliation in the world. This includes sharing the gospel, serving others, and advocating for righteousness.

As believers, we are called to live as citizens of God's Kingdom here and now. This involves aligning our hearts, minds, and actions with His will and purposes prioritizing the values and principles of His reign in our lives. Through prayer, worship, obedience, and service, we contribute to the advancement of God's Kingdom in our spheres of influence.

Application: Are you actively seeking to align your heart, mind, thoughts, and actions with God's Kingdom?

Practically, we can shine the light of God in the present.

We can be a source of comfort and encouragement to many. Providing a kind word or going the extra mile to engage can and likely will have long lasting impact. We can be the manifestation of God's Kingdom on earth.

We can live with humility and integrity. This takes the focus off us and places it where it belongs on God. We truly should desire to be a window to Jesus and the Kingdom of God. The god of me has no place in giving God glory for others to see.

By serving in the Kingdom. There are many potential applications for this.

Matthew 14:29 - He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

Application: Will you pray for God to reveal how you can serve. Will you step out of your comfort zone? Will you step out of your boat to expand God's present Kingdom? Will you ask God to reveal opportunities and blind spots that might be preventing you from seeing those opportunities clearly?

While we acknowledge the present reality of God's Kingdom, we also anticipate its full manifestation in the future. Throughout Scripture, we are encouraged to pray for the coming of God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

This portion of the Lord's prayer reflects our hearts desire for peace and restoration in a world tarnished by sin and brokenness. The promise of God's Kingdom coming gives us hope, and this should inspire us to actively participate in His redemptive work. May we never stop praying for God's Kingdom both presently and in the future.

As I begin to wrap up, Psalm 103:19 reminds us of the transcendent reality of God's Kingdom, established in eternity and reigning overall. As we meditate on this truth, may we be filled with awe and reverence for the King of kings and Lord of lords. Let us eagerly await the fullness of His Kingdom while actively participating in its unfolding through our lives. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us as we journey as citizens of His Kingdom. Let's reaffirm our faith in the present reality of God's kingdom. It's not just a distant future hope but a transformative truth that shapes how we live, love, and serve. May we continually submit to God's reign, trusting in His wisdom and goodness, and may His kingdom come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.
