

The Doctrine of the Two Kingdoms

Review of Lessons 1-4

Lesson 1-2 Kingdom (Common and Redemptive) basic points:

1. These Kingdoms are separate and have very different _____
2. God _____ over both kingdoms. God's Sovereignty is the starting point.
3. God's _____ are to be seen as the foundation of these kingdoms
4. Christians, on the earth, live as members of _____ kingdoms

“God’s people are called to live under both covenants-that is, in two kingdoms. On the one hand they respect the terms of the Noahic Covenant as they pursue a variety of cultural activities in common with unbelievers. On the other hand, they embrace the terms of the covenant of grace as they cling to the promises of salvation and eternal life in a new creation and as they gather in worshipping communities distinguished from the unbelieving world.”

Lesson 2-Two Adams (a brief look at the doctrine of federal headship)

The first Adam was created to have dominion over the earth. He was to follow the pattern of God and work to enter the _____ of God. However, Adam failed in his work, forfeiting the dominion he was to have and was not allowed to enter the promised rest.

The first Adam’s sin not only impacted him but now the same _____ of death, toil of labor, and being barred from the rest of God would be known by all who would come from him. Unlike Adam the first before the Fall, our works cannot gain for us the rest of God because we now have a sinful nature.

“Human depravity, furthermore, is holistic, deep-rooted, and relentless. Sinful human beings continue to engage in cultural enterprises and to accomplish many humanly worthwhile things. But whatever value other people may ascribe to such works from an earthly perspective, none of them can earn God’s final approval...The result of Adam’s sin was the sentence of death, which meant falling short of his original destiny: royal rest.”

The second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, came and did what the first Adam failed to do. He conquered the Serpent and fulfilled all the works of God perfectly. He has ascended into _____ rest.

The second Adam’s obedience not only impacted Him but now the promise of life, blessing, and rest come to all who, through faith, are united to Him. Those who are born again by the power of the Spirit are now under a _____ federal head, the Second Adam.

Jesus Christ has accomplished all the work that was needed for our salvation. Our works do not gain for us the rest of God, that is to be had _____ in Christ.

“Before the second Adam no one accomplished the task of the first Adam, and after the second Adam no one needs to accomplish it. The last Adam has completed it once for all. Christians will attain the original destiny of life in the world-to-come, but we do so not by picking up the task where Adam left off but by resting entirely on the work of Jesus Christ, the last Adam who accomplished the task perfectly.”

Lesson 3-Two Kingdoms in the OT

We see the doctrine of the Two kingdoms as early as Genesis 3:14-19. There is a distinction made between two groups of people and there is a common curse that impacts _____ humanity.

“Thus Genesis 3:14-19 teaches both that a fundamental spiritual antithesis will divide believers from unbelievers and that a cultural commonality will result in many shared activities and experiences among them all.”

We see the two kingdoms again in the Noahic Covenant and the Abrahamic Covenant. The Noahic Covenant is about the _____ of life in the common kingdom. The Abrahamic Covenant is about _____ in the redemptive kingdom.

Examples of Two Kingdom living in the OT

We see in both the life of Abraham and the life of the exiled Israelites in _____ what life in the two kingdoms looks like.

“Their cultural life would now be intertwined with that of unbelievers...for a period of seventy years the Israelites were to live in exile in Babylon, pursuing ordinary cultural activities and seeking the welfare of the very people who had destroyed the Promised Land. But they were to remain distinct from the Babylonians in their religious commitments to the true God and to maintain their hope of returning to Canaan.”

Lesson 4-Two Kingdoms in NT

Like the OT, we find the saint in the NT referred to as sojourners (calling attention back to Abraham) and _____ (calling attention back to the Babylonian captivity) on earth.

Redemptive kingdom-Christ came to establish the _____ and it is in the church that we see the redemptive kingdom on earth. In the church the gospel is not only the way of salvation but the way of life.

“When Christ came, He did not establish the state, or the family, or a school or a business venture. These things already existed and were governed and preserved under the covenant with Noah. The Lord Jesus Christ established one thing: His church...Though the church today is clothed in weakness and humility it is far more glorious than anything the Old Testament saints ever experienced.”

Common Kingdom-The main institutions of the common kingdom (marriage and the state) receive much attention in the NT. Christian families are to strive to honor God’s _____. Christians under the state should also seek to honor God’s _____.

“Like the family, the state and its civil magistrates are legitimate regardless of whether magistrates and citizens are Christians, since they exist under the Noahic covenant as part of the common kingdom...the New Testament never indicates that civil authorities have any responsibility to make the social or political order conform to the redemptive kingdom of heaven...Thus Christians are to participate in the life of the family and the life of the state, though these institutions are not uniquely Christian...Living in families and living under the state are shared experiences among those who profess Christ and those who do not.”