



TWO KINGDOMS ONE CALLING



SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

OCTOBER 4, 11, 18 • NOVEMBER 1, 8, 15 • 10:15 AM

WEEK 1 • THE REIGN OF GOD

BIG QUESTION

What is the kingdom of God — and what does it mean for us today?

BASILEIA (βασιλεία) — A WORD STUDY

The Greek word translated “kingdom” in our New Testaments is *basileia*. It is an abstract noun built from *basileus* (“king”), and it means _____

When Jesus announced that “the kingdom of God is at hand,” his first hearers would have heard an announcement about _____

BIBLICAL STUDY

Genesis 1:26–28

“God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky, and over the livestock, and over all the earth...’ God created man in his own image... God blessed them. God said to them, ‘Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Have dominion...’”

CONTEXT

Psalms 24:1

“The earth is the LORD’s, with its fullness; the world, and those who dwell in it.”

CONTEXT

Mark 1:14–15

“Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God’s kingdom, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’”

CONTEXT

Matthew 6:9–10

“Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. Let your Kingdom come. Let your will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.”

CONTEXT

Luke 17:20–21

“Being asked by the Pharisees when God’s Kingdom would come, he answered them, ‘God’s Kingdom doesn’t come with observation; neither will they say, “Look, here!” or, “Look, there!” for behold, God’s Kingdom is among you.’”

CONTEXT

John 18:36

Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”

CONTEXT

COMMON ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT A KINGDOM	REIGN OF GOD — BIBLICAL REALITY
It is a place with borders and geography	
It is something we build or bring about through conquest or our own effort or power	
It is a political or geographic entity — a nation or a “Christian” government	
Jesus came to set up an earthly kingdom.	
You enter the kingdom by geography or nationality	
The kingdom is a future-only hope	

WATCH

“Gospel of the Kingdom” — BibleProject

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Before today, how would you have defined “the kingdom of God”? How does the idea of God’s reign change or challenge that picture?

2. Read Mark 1:14–15 again. What does it mean for the good news to be an announcement rather than an assignment?

3. Where in your own life is it easiest to picture God’s reign as “someday” rather than “already — but not yet complete”?

4. Luke 17:20–21 says the kingdom does not come “with observation.” How does that reshape how you look for evidence of God’s reign around you?

5. In John 18:36, Jesus tells Pilate his kingdom “is not of this world.” Why might that matter as we think about faith and political power today?

6. Genesis 1 and Psalm 24 ground God’s reign in creation itself. How does it change things to know God’s reign didn’t start with Jesus’ birth — it has been true all along?
